

# Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

VOLUME 16, NO. 7

“EXALTING THE IMPORTANCE OF IDEAS AND INFORMATION” —EDWARD R. MURROW

JULY 2024

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## VHC commissions new hook & ladder truck

Shortly after the community helped “push-in” the new fire truck on June 3 at the Vigilant Hose Company (VHC), fire personnel transmitted a message over the radio to dispatch. “Place this unit in service and in quarters,” a firefighter said from inside the new truck, informing the communications center that the apparatus was available for emergency calls out of VHC.

Booming applause broke out inside the fire department as the glossy red paint shone across the new apparatus that succeeded the 1995 fire truck. A sign attached to the ladder with gold letters read: protecting the citizens of Emmitsburg and surrounding communities. The 2023 Pierce Enforcer tower will serve the town that is home of the National Fire Academy and Mount Saint Mary's University.

“The pushing in ceremony [is a] ...long honored, American fire service tradition,” said Wayne Powell, a long-time historian who specializes in American fire and emergency services and fire protection disciplines. “It's a community get-together.”

Before the new truck was backed into the station, VHC leadership

took turns delivering speeches to the crowd of community supporters. Josh Brotherton, Chief of VHC, was the first to speak at the podium Monday evening. “The journey to this momentous occasion began in 2020, when our department formed a committee tasked with the challenge of replacing our aging 1995 Pierce tower,” Brotherton said.

According to the chief, Chairman Chad Umbel embarked on the process of designing a ladder truck that would meet the needs of the department and community.

According to the chief, the department raised enough funds to cover the cost of the new fire truck before delivery. “It's an amazing thing,” Tom Ward uttered, regarding the feeling of the tower finally being in service. Ward, who serves as the president of the fire company, said no other fire department in the state could pay for a new truck up-front within 18 months.

Following the ceremony and the official in-service announcement, community members leisurely walked around the truck, observing the details and updated features while conversing amongst one another.



Friends and families of the VHC all showed up to help push the VHC's new Tower 6 in and witness it being commissioned into service.

Powell examined the Dalmatian dog placed on the driver's side of the truck near the rear, reminiscing about the significance of Dalmatians in fire service. “Two hundred years ago, when horses pulled the big heavy fire truck... Dalmatians and horses get along really, really well,” commented Powell.

Dalmatians played a key role many years ago in fire service, providing company to horses when firefighters would battle blazes for hours – maybe all night long, the historian said.

Mayor and current Town Council member Jim Hoover said

Emmitsburg has been very fortunate with their volunteer turnout. While other fire companies in the country were experiencing a decrease in volunteerism, Emmitsburg was having an increase.

Bill Boyd, who has been part of VHC for nearly 33 years, said the community has provided unwavering support for the fire department for as long as he has been a member, whether it is fundraisers or purchasing items. As the crowd started to depart, Boyd proudly glanced over at the new truck. “We wouldn't be where we are today without this community,” Boyd said. “It's a special community.”

## South Mountain Fair celebrates 102 years

The best part of the summer season is right around the corner, fair season. Are you ready for the return of throttling of tractors, the smell of corn dogs and kids screaming gleefully on the Tilt-A-Whirl? Well, buckle up, because the Annual South Mountain Fair promises to exceed high expectations. The fair opens this year on July 23 and runs through July 27. It is open from 4-10 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and from 1-10 on Saturday.

“I don't think most people realize how much work and how many hours goes into preparing for the Fair and the work doesn't end on the last day of the Fair either. We work at it all year. There is always something that needs to be repaired or painted or mowed or cleaned. The average person doesn't see all of those things, but they all need to be taken care of throughout the year and not just Fair week. In 2020 when the Fair and all of our other rentals were cancelled, those things still had to be done. The grounds had to be mowed. We still had to pay the electric and phone bills even without any income,” Irvin said.

The South Mountain Fair is known far and wide for its involvement with agriculture students and this year is no exception. There will be ample opportunities for

children to be acknowledged for their personal efforts ranging from hobby interests to animal husbandry, for local and national merchants to show off their wares, and for community members from far and wide to come together for an evening full of great food, entertainment, and fun.

The fair began in 1922 and continued each year until 1930, when it was cancelled that year because of a drought. The annual event picked up again in 1931 and continued until 1941, when it was again cancelled, this time due to a polio epidemic, then World War II, according to the South Mountain Fair Association. The fair was resumed in 1948 and has been held every year since then until 2020 when it was again cancelled because of the Covid19 pandemic. It was held the next year, 2021, and has continued since then.

One of the highlights of the fair is 4-H livestock judging, which will take place all week long. Other activities include laser tag, pony rides, chainsaw carving shows, a draft and miniature horse pull on July 24, a fireworks display on July 25, a pedal tractor pull for the kids and an antique tractor parade on July 27. Exhibit buildings will be open every evening



While the South Mountain Fair has the greatest of rides of any carnival or fair around, the heart and soul of the fair will always be the kids and their animals.

for the public. Exhibits include: a photography exhibit; baked goods, wine, vegetables, and fruit exhibits; crafts and art pieces of all kinds; as well as 4H projects.

There will be musical entertainment in the auditorium which is included in the price of admission. This year's entertainers are local musicians. On Thursday evening Austin Rife will be entertaining us

and on Friday The Kenton Stitch Band will take the stage. On Saturday there are several local singers performing. At 3 p.m. Faith Noel, 6 p.m. Elly Cooke, and at 7:30 p.m. Gravy will be performing in the auditorium with a variety of music.

For more information and a complete schedule of events, visit [www.southmountainfair.com](http://www.southmountainfair.com)

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# EMMITSBURG NEWS

## Three Council seats up for grabs

The seats currently held by former Mayor and now current Commissioner Jim Hoover, Tim O'Donnell and Cliff Sweeney will be up for grabs in the upcoming Town election scheduled for October 1st.

Hoover was appointed to fill the remaining ten-month term of Commissioner Frank Davis by the Town Council following Davis' election last year to be the town's mayor. While unanimous, Hoover's nomination was problematic in the beginning as the Town Code had no formal process as to how the selection to fill Davis' seat should or could take place.

This was the second time Hoover has stepped forward to fill a vacant seat on the Council. The first time was in 2013 following the resignation of then Commissioner Glenn Blanchard.

As a result of the confusion stemming from the 2013 appointment, the Town Council, which at the time included O'Donnell and Sweeney, agreed to update the Town Code to provide more guidance on the selection of replacement commissioners. However, they failed to do so, resulting in the current Town Council facing the same dilemma again last year. With four candidates applying for the position, but no clear criteria on how to select the best candidate, a follow-up commitment by both O'Donnell and Sweeney to fix the policy this time around has also not been done.

In addition to "pitch hitting" as

commissioner in 2013, Hoover previously served as a Town commissioner from 1998 until 2002 and as mayor from 2002 until 2011. Hoover lost his bid for a third term to former Mayor Don Briggs.

During his term as mayor, Hoover focused his efforts on making the Town staff more responsible to the residents of the town and overhauling and rightsizing of the Town's finances. Hoover currently serves as the Council Vice President. As Vice President, he has taken on the role of both statesman and mediator, working to find common ground to resolve many of the complex problems the Town is currently facing.

O'Donnell, who has served on the Town Council since 2009, is the liaison to the Parks and Recreation Commission. Prior to last year's election, O'Donnell, who had served as the Council's President on and off since 2013, failed in his bid to continue in that role when his fellow council members opted for a change of leadership and handed the presidency to Commissioner Amy Boehman.

Sweeney has served on the Town Council for 29 years, making him the longest serving council member in the Town's history. Sweeney, who lost his bid to remain as the Town's treasurer to the newly elected Commissioner Valerie Turnquist, is the only member of the current Council who, contrary to

long standing tradition, is not serving as a liaison to any of the Town's many committees. In declining to serve as liaison, Sweeney said that his time was taken up working with other non-government related organizations that he belonged to.

In 2021, the last time Sweeney & O'Donnell ran and won re-election, 269 residents turned out to vote.

When the pair ran in 2018, only 48 ballots were cast, out of a possible 1,700. In 2015, just 38 residents participated in their election.

Hoover told the News-Journal that he was leaning towards running again but has not yet made a definite decision. Sweeney said he is running, but offered no vision of what he would hope to accomplish in another term. O'Donnell failed to respond to a request on his plans.

Individuals who wish to vie for one of the open seats on the Town Council must file a written application for candidacy with the town clerk no later than August 30 in order to appear on the ballots. Potential candidates who fail to file by the deadline can file to run as a write-in candidate.

Candidates must have resided in Emmitsburg for at 30 days and shall be qualified voters. Commission members are compensated \$4,000 annually. Candidates elected will be sworn-in and assume their position on the Town Council on October 7.

*Emmitsburg*  
NEWS-JOURNAL

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## Town explores expanding growth boundaries

During the May meeting, the Town Council discussed adjusting the growth boundary line or adding a second, flexible line into the Comprehensive Plan to allow for future annexation into the Town. Town Planner Najila Ahsan said that expanding the boundary would aid the municipal growth chapter in the Comprehensive Plan, which is based on population projections and what infrastructure would be needed in the future to accommodate the projected population growth.

The projected growth boundary expansion would include 60 to 70 properties on

Track Road and Rte. 140. Ahsan stated that many of the homes in the potential area already have water and sewers and are currently zoned low residential and agricultural. She said that including these properties would allow the property owners to apply for annexation in the future, although no one has applied as of now.

Town Council liaison Valerie Turnquist and Commission member Patricia Galloway both questioned the impact that adding 60 to 70 properties would have on the water and sewer availability for undeveloped properties already

existing in Town. Town Attorney, Clark Adams, explained that the expansion would allow the properties to be annexed into the Town but would not require it, therefore there would be no impact until the annexation process was initiated. Ahsan also pointed out that the water and sewer could be expanded as part of the annexation agreement.

Eric Soder, previous Director of Planning for Frederick County, was at the meeting to offer his advice. He suggested giving the boundary a "fuzzy" quarter to half mile buffer along with

supporting text in the Comprehensive Plan to allow flexibility in the future. "If you build the flexibility in now, you will still control the terms," he said.

Adams pointed out that the flexible boundary would save the Town time and money because if a property is not within the growth boundary line but was interested in being annexed into Town in the future, to do so would require a 90-day process before they could even begin the annexation process. With the flexible line in place, the property could begin the annex-

ation process sooner if it follows the guidelines according to the Comprehensive Plan.

Soder said the City of Frederick has a similar flexible growth boundary line, however he will check in with other local municipalities to see who else may have a flexible boundary line and how it works for them. "Sometimes municipalities find themselves boxed in because of a hard drawn growth boundary line. This would allow you to address opportunities or issues when they arise." The Commission decided to investigate the idea further for discussion at a future meeting.

## Water costs uniformity questioned

While the Mayor and Town Council seem locked step (although not happy about it) with the need to raise water rates to replenish the Town's Water Fund last year, the unintended consequences of the decision to set the cost of the water rates based upon the size of the connection a property has to the Town's water system, has attracted the attention of members of the Town Council.

Unlike other communities which base quarterly water bills on either a minimum flat fee for a set amount of water (with a surcharge for the any water used above the minimum), or a straight fee for the amount of water used in total, Emmitsburg uses a tiered cost of water based upon the size of the connection to the water system.

For the vast majority of homes connected by a ¾ inch water pipe,

the minimum cost is for 6,000 gallons of water per quarter. This cost will increase by 36% again on July 1 to \$65/quarter.

But for customers with a 1" meter the same amount of water drawn will cost \$108/quarter. Property owners with a 1.5 inch meter will pay \$216/quarter. If you are connected by a 4-inch pipe, the cost of the same amount of the minimum

draw of water is \$1079/quarter. The price doubles to \$215 for the same amount of water drawn thought a 6-inch connection.

While the size of the water connection to the water system is normally based upon the nature of the business, increasingly the mandates for fire sprinklers in homes are requiring builders to consider connections with pipes sizes that can support the required flow rate of the sprinkler system. This requirement will result in the future home-

owners paying more for the same amount of water as adjacent homes not built with a sprinkler system.

The cost of not factoring in the requirement to install a sprinkle system into water rate cost is best exemplified at the new Seton Center, which is connected to the Town's water system by a 6-inch pipe – a size driven solely by the facility's sprinkler system. As a result of last year's rate increase, the Center saw its quarterly water bill increase by \$810, even though the facility has only water fountains and bathrooms.

As a result of this disparity, Mayor Davis has directed some adjustments for users in who saw their water bills increase significantly after last year's rate increase as a result of fire sprinkler connection requirements.

The Council agreed that the current water rate structure will be reviewed at the September meeting after the town has a full year of data to review. Based upon current projections, last year's rate increase will see the Town's Water Fund balance increase by close to \$200,000 over the previous year.

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# FAIRFIELD/CARROLL VALLEY NEWS

## Carroll Valley researching options for sewer rate relief

Carroll Valley residents are concerned about high sewer rates, so the borough government is looking at every option for relief.

Borough Manager Dave Hazlett told the council that two options, installing effluent or well meters in each home, are not cost-effective.

Effluent meters allow billing based on actual usage rather than a flat rate. Hazlett said the equipment to read effluent meters would cost about \$1.3 million plus installation costs. Each of the sewer system's 467 customers

would need to pay about \$2,783 for the system, he said.

Well meters, which measure how much water a well sends to each house, would cost \$652.70 per house, Hazlett said. The equipment to read the meters would also cost the borough approximately \$25,000.

"It's important to note that with either type of meter, the borough would incur perpetually cyclical hardware and software costs and likely increased personnel costs (a new meter reader hire), which I am unable to quantify at this stage,"

Hazlett said in a memo to council.

Hazlett said some citizens have proposed the borough charge sewer rates based on the number of people living in the house. That approach will not work, he said, because he has no way to verify the number of people living in each residence.

Last year, the borough raised sewer rates by 37 percent to fund a new \$5.315 million sewage treatment plant. Hazlett hopes the 1.743 percent, 20-year loan will be paid off early so the borough

can reduce sewer bills. In 2022, the borough paid off a loan issued for its municipal building 20 years early. At the time, the Borough credited "sound budgeting and careful spending" for the accomplishment.

"I have no doubt that we will be able to do that with the sewer project," he said.

Hazlett said borough staff are focused on helping sewer customers who pay their bills. Those who ignore them are about to face some harsh realities.

Hazlett told the council he instructed Borough Solicitor Zachary Rice to begin enforcing liens on properties placed for non-payment. Some customers, Hazlett said, owe up to seven years' worth of sewer bills. In the past, the borough tried to work out payment plans for customers who faced hardships, but those plans were seldom effective. Now, the borough is making customers' options clear.

"They pay their bill, or it (the property) goes to Sheriff's sale," he said.

## Borough police cracks down on speeders

Speeders beware: Fairfield and Carroll Valley boroughs are places where you should hit the brakes.

Police Chief Clifford Weikert told the Carroll Valley Borough Council during their June meeting that digital speed detection signs and increased patrols are being implemented to make the southwestern area of Adams County safer.

Data from speed detection signs show that about 13,706 cars traveled Route 16 (Waynesboro Pike) eastbound during a one-week period in May, Weikert said. Of

those, 2,206 traveled more than 10 mph over the posted speed limit of 45 mph.

Weikert also recently posted the sign in Fairfield Borough, which the department patrols as part of a mutual agreement. About 14,900 cars traveled Route 116 during one week in May, he said. Of those, 890 moved more than 10 mph over the posted speed limit of 25 mph.

Weikert said Fairfield Borough is purchasing its own speed detectors. Councilperson Catherine Schubring suggested Carroll Val-

ley purchase additional signs. Borough Manager Dave Hazlett said the devices cost about \$3,000.

"It does help slow down people," Weikert said.

The chief said his officers are increasing speed patrols based on residents' feedback. Carroll Valley or Fairfield residents who believe speed is a problem on their road should contact Weiker at 717-642-8269.

Councilmember Bruce Carr told Weikert that several citizens had expressed appreciation to him for the police departments' visibil-

ity in Carroll Valley and Fairfield. Weikert said his officers conduct foot patrols in Fairfield Borough. Such patrols are difficult in the more rural Carroll Valley, so officers connect with residents by visiting the Borough's parks.

### Lake Complaint

Carroll Valley police officers patrol the borough's land and waters, and a company the borough hires to treat Lake May is one of the violators of water rules.

Hazlett told the council that a resident recently complained that

Aquatic Environment Consultants put a boat with an outboard motor onto Lake May when it treated the lake for algae. The borough's rules state "no boats with motors" except electric trolling motors.

Hazlett acknowledged the borough is not above the law. However, Aquatic Environment Consultants informed him that they cannot treat the lake without using a boat with an outboard motor.

The Council directed Hazlett to draft an ordinance revision allowing an exemption for borough-sanctioned activities. This will include training exercises conducted by the Fairfield and Fountaindale fire departments, Hazlett said.

## Liberty working with owners of private road

Residents of Liberty Township's Rist Trail are facing hefty costs to control stormwater or fines of up to \$1,000. Township supervisors are trying to help, but their ability to do so is limited due to Rist Trail being a private road.

Supervisors first started discussing the problem last year. During major storms, water flows from Strausbaugh and Rist trails onto Bullfrog Road, Supervisor Mickey Barlow said. The supervisors noted not every property is out of compliance.

Several Rist Trail residents attended June's board of supervisors meeting, begging the board for help. The residents said they received violation notices from KPI Technologies and Pennsylvania Municipal Code Alliance, which the township contracts to

enforce codes. Barlow told the residents that the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection requires the township to enforce stormwater management issues.

"We are not trying to get into a competition or a battle with you guys at all. We want to help you get into compliance with the stormwater management laws of the state of Pennsylvania," Barlow said.

The township has hosted two information sessions so residents could discuss the violation notices with KPI and PMCA. The township paid the companies in an attempt to help residents, Supervisor Bobby Keiholtz said. During the sessions, the companies met with homeowners individually to discuss concerns. Residents told the supervisors they wanted a large group meeting, but Barlow said that request was better suited for KPI or PMCA.

One resident told the supervisors that repairs to his property could cost up to \$60,000. Doing nothing is not an option, Barlow said, since fines associated with the violation could be even more costly.

"If you do not want to, just let us know and we will tell the zoning officer to start fining you \$1,000 a day," Barlow said.

The supervisors have instructed the zoning officer not to fine residents while they continue to work

with them to come into compliance. Another resident asked the supervisors if they could adopt Rist Trail. Barlow said the request was impractical since the residents would have to first bring it into compliance with township road requirements. If that were to occur, the residents of Rist Trail would have to file a petition that included the signatures of 100% of trail property owners. Barlow noted contacting some property owners about the stormwater issues has been challenging.

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# THURMONT NEWS

## Council considers FY-25 budget amendments

Chief Financial Officer Linda Joyce presented budget amendments for fiscal year 2024 at the June 18 meeting. Many of the amendments were reallocations of previously approved projects, to be adopted at the July 2 meeting if approved.

Because the projects had already been approved by the Town Council at past meetings, there weren't many objections.

Commissioner Marty Burns raised concerns about paying an electric department staff member's mileage, which was \$3,000. The Town truck that the staff member had been using was in a wreck, causing him to use his personal vehicle. Burns objected to paying for the staff member's mileage, specifically his commute to and from work.

Town Manager Jim Humerick explained that this staff member is supposed to have a "take home" vehicle, which is why the Town is reimbursing

mileage and other related expenses.

"Whether he rates a vehicle to take-home or not, we're not paying him for mileage," Burns said, also adding that he is concerned about the costs for taxpayers.

Mayor John Kinnaird added that he thinks it's more than fair for the staff member to be reimbursed because the take-home vehicle was part of his compensation package. "I don't support that at all," Burns said. "I don't think that's remotely reasonable."

As the commissioners dove deeper into discussing the mileage, Humerick reminded the Council that personnel matters should not be discussed in a public meeting. He clarified that the mayor and commissioners could still discuss the expenditure itself, which includes approving or not approving the ordinance.

Commissioner Bill Blakeslee pointed out that it didn't matter whether or not the Board approved the ordinance or not because the staff

member had already been reimbursed. He suggested the Board talk later about the issue, to which Kinnaird agreed.

Other issues involved the condition of the fences in the parks. Repairs came under \$7,500 and did not require Board approval until the Amendments. While the commissioners questioned the need for the repairs, Humerick said he was worried about the condition and safety of the fences and that the repairs were necessary.

The parks department also reallocated money for new mowers after discovering additional ball field mowing was needed. They also reallocated money for Eyer Road Playground improvements.

Under the general fund, the Town will be increasing funding received from state grants by \$597,719 and increasing miscellaneous grants by \$3,500. The grants coming in are expected to Joyce clarified that these

amounts are solely what the Town has received as of June 18, but will be expecting additional grant money coming in. Some of the projects funded by the grants have already been completed but were discussed to be written into the record.

Joyce also read into the record the streets impact fees and parks impact fees, which was transferred from the Restricted Fund Balance. The Amendment records additional interest earned as a result of revising bank accounts structure. According to Joyce, the Town's new sweep account earned \$388,920 in interest since approved. However, with the new bank account, comes additional fees at \$7,000, which Joyce included in the amendment.

The biggest expense was \$91,012 for the Church Street Parcel Purchase and "various expenses" related to the Emmitsburg Road Flood Study, which came from the Unrestricted Fund Bal-

ance. The parcel is intended for storm water management.

"The approvals already been done, and of course the purchase, it's just a matter of making an actual, official budget amendment," Joyce said.

The finance department reallocated funds when an accountant went from full-time to part-time contract for the next 3-4 months. The difference includes not only a decrease in salary but the Town will no longer need to pay for retirement and other fees for this employee. The new accounting software will replace this accountant.

The wastewater fund also received more revenue than budgeted over the last year. The Department's expenses covered unexpected costs such as a new radiator, plant chemicals, etc.

The water fund received \$26,000 more in revenue than budgeted. According to Joyce, the water department had "bad luck in the vehicle department" which led to unexpected expenses, among other expenses added to the amendment.

## 15% water & sewer rate increase under consideration

The Town Council discussed a 15% increase in water and sewer rates for residents at the last meeting. While no action was taken, the mayor and commissioners will take public comment on the issue at the Aug. 6 meeting.

According to Town Manager Jim Humerick, the increase will cover daily operations, not including special projects. The Board did not decide when the ordinance would take effect, but did discuss the possibility of the potential new rates to be included in the October bill. For this to hap-

pen, the ordinance would need to be approved during the first quarter of the fiscal year. The effect date will be decided at the Aug. 6 meeting as well, after public comment.

Mayor John Kinnaird asked that information and the rate comparisons be posted to the Town website two weeks before the public hearing, to which the remaining board members agreed. All were concerned about giving residents enough notice before rates increased.

In Town water rates are currently \$6.65 per 1,000 gallons plus a \$10

base fee and out of town rates are \$9.98 per 1,000 gallons plus a \$15 base fee. If the 15% increase goes through, these rates could change to \$7.65 per 1,000 gallons with a \$11.50 base fee and \$11.48 per 1,000 gallons with a \$17.25 base fee, respectively.

Sewer rates would remain on a tiered system based on usage. "We have talked about looking at a tiered rate for water, but we're not to that point yet and we'll have to revisit that at some point in the future," Humerick said. In town sewer rates for up to 3,000 gallons would cost \$69, a \$9 increase.

The new tier costs for in town sewer rates include:

- 3,001-8,000 gallons: \$10.35/1,000 gallons – (currently \$9)
- 8,001-13,000 gallons: \$10.65/1,000 gallons – (currently \$9.25)
- 13,001-18,000 gallons: \$10.95/1,000 gallons – (currently \$9.50)
- 18,001-23,000 gallons: \$11.25/1,000 gallons – (currently \$9.75)

23,001+ gallons: \$11.50/1,000 gallons – (currently \$10)

23,001+ gallons: \$17.25/1,000 gallons – (currently \$15)

The out-of-town sewer rates continue at a 50% premium. The current rate for up to 3,000 gallons is \$90, but will be \$103.50 if the ordinance is passed. The following tiers could be:

- 3,001-8,000 gallons: \$15.55/1,000 gallons – (currently \$13.50 per)
- 8,001-13,000 gallons: \$16/1,000 gallons – (currently \$13.88)
- 13,001-18,000 gallons: \$16.40/1,000 gallons – (currently \$14.25)
- 18,001-23,000 gallons: \$16.85/1,000 gallons – (currently \$14.63)

The numbers are now rounded, thanks to a request by Commissioner Marty Burns "just to make calculations easier." He mentioned it would be an "insignificant" difference to residents, to which the remaining Council members agreed. "It might make it easier for customer calculation, too," Chief Financial Officer Linda Joyce said.

Kinnaird explained that the sewer, or wastewater, rate is based on a household's water consumption. Humerick added that, for the few residents who don't have town water, their sewer usage is determined by a meter in their wells.

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## TANEYTOWN NEWS

## City considers revising Community Village code

The Planning Commission is considering making changes to the Community Village overlay that could affect the Garnet Ridge development. The intent of the Community Village ordinance is to encourage development reflective of a true, old-style community with closer packed homes, which would promote a small-town community environment, while minimizing the footprint of the development. Minimizing the development's footprint will reduce the cost to the City through street and infrastructure maintenance while maximizing the tax base and proceeds from the water and sewer services the City will be providing.

Recently, the City has made updates to the overlay, addressing concerns about rear loading alleys. They voted to remove the requirement of a rear alley for single-family homes because unlike townhomes, single-family homes typically have more space to allow parking either in a driveway or in front of the homes. The decision to drop the alleys should have also resulted in the streets being widened to allow cars to park; however, with the Meade's Crossing development, the impact of not widening the streets wasn't noticed until after the building process had begun, resulting in narrower streets than desired.

With Garnet Ridge, the newest retirement community in the planning stages, the Commission has once again asked about parking concerns and what could be done to improve the conditions. In age-restricted communities, they are only required to have two parking spaces (this includes garages) versus the traditional three that are required in other developments.

A standard parking pad is 9 feet by 20 feet, large enough to accommodate one car. However, according to City Manager Jim Wieprecht, 18 feet is accepted as long as the vehicle is not overhanging a sidewalk. He said it would be a citable violation for the

sidewalk to be blocked.

Since the parking pads at Garnet Ridge are currently designed at 9 feet by 15 feet, City Council Liaison Councilman Chris Tillman asked where the residents would park since all of the duplexes and triplexes are front loaded units with garages.

He commented, "If we think this isn't suitable, then we need to do something and make the change now." City Attorney Jay Gallo concurred, pointing out that changes would be best made now before the developer sinks a ton of money into the development, only to find out it's not going to be approved.

The Commission also discussed the minimum street width for Garnet Ridge. They questioned whether the 28-foot minimum included a foot of "gutter pan" on each side of the pavement or if the two feet was to be added to the 28 feet making the minimum 30 feet. Commission members were unable to come to a consensus at the May meeting on the minimum requirement.

With street width plaguing Meade's Crossing and parking issues as well, the Commission decided to research the Community Village Code further and discuss any adopted changes at a future meeting.

## Veterans Memorial to receive a facelift

Efforts are underway to upgrade the current Veterans Memorial at Memorial Park to increase recognition of the sacrifice of local veterans. The Memorial was originally built in 1953 and was inscribed with the following dedication: "Dedicated to the honor of the men and women of Taneytown who served in the armed forces of the United States of America in all wars."

The Memorial is made of brick and was updated a few years ago with fresh paint and grouting. Staff also removed

overgrown trees where the roots were damaging the Memorial's brick walkway.

The suggestion to upgrade was supported by Council members but had Mayor Pro Tem James McCarron asking, "What are we going to do that we are not already doing?"

Councilwoman Judith Fuller added that she has already spoken with the Director of Parks & Recreation, Lorena Vaccare, about the Memorial. They came up with an idea to add two sidewalks leading to

two additional brick walls, like what is currently standing at the Memorial. The walls would give a "blank canvas" for residents to purchase commemorative plaques to honor survivors.

Councilman Christopher Tillman's suggestion was to replace the original plain brick walkway with memorial bricks that would lead to a small garden. The bricks purchased via donation allow the donor to commemorate loved ones who have passed. The City can also use the proceeds to help fund the garden.

However, the cost would be the biggest hurdle in upgrading the Memorial. "We are scraping the bottom of the barrel for funding parks' projects right now," said City Manager Jim Wieprecht. He stated the City already has a very aggressive Capital Improvement Program that is heavy with Parks funding for projects like the Memorial Park expansion and the splash pad. Fuller added that the estimated sum of \$45,000 may be needed to build the additional pieces for the upgrade. How-

ever, she was adamant that Vaccare was looking into grants, donations, and other ways to get the money that would be needed.

Mayor Christopher Miller asked Wieprecht to make sure City staff will be involving local veterans organizations such as the American Legion or the VFW to aid in the search for funding and design since they typically would have some experience in erecting memorials.

With Council approval, Town staff will search for partners in the design and funding of the upgrade to the Memorial.

## Council considers in-house street sweeping

For months, the City Council has casually discussed terminating the existing street sweeping contract and purchasing the equipment to do it in-house due to the poor performance of the contracted company over the last few months.

City Manager Jim Wieprecht explained, "For many years, we've opted to outsource and let someone else deal with the maintenance concerns, but recently, we've had performance issues," he said.

The Council noticed the deterioration in the quality of street sweeping with explanations such as cars parked in the way of the sweeper

and winter weather. However, more than once the company didn't show up at all and other times with a broken machine. "I don't think the quality issues are because of parked cars in the way of the sweeper, but because the actual machine was broken, and they used it anyway," said Mayor Christopher Miller. He described situations where the sweeper spread mud all over the City instead of cleaning it up. "It's a reliability and quality issue," he said.

Councilman Chris Tillman agreed, noting that cars being parked in the way wouldn't be as much of an issue if the City did the work in-house, because the City would be able to do

the sweeping at their own pace and could schedule times to catch the missed areas.

Currently the City has budgeted \$30,000 for FY-25 for the street sweeping contract, which expires in 2025. According to Wieprecht, the City's Department of Public Works (DPW) believes they have the manpower to do the sweeping in-house and has been working with the City Attorney to see if the contract can be terminated early.

The Council will also need to decide if they want to purchase new equipment or investigate purchasing used. "We've had good luck with the used bucket truck we purchased a few years

ago," said McCarron. Although used machinery may be cost-effective at the onset, it can be problematic because it rarely comes with a warranty.

Currently, the City roads are done once a year and the State roads once a month. If the City were to do the street sweeping completely in-house, they would have the freedom to sweep whenever and essentially wherever they wished. "We would be able to sweep our streets before special events," said Tillman. Councilwoman Judith Fuller added that attachments could be purchased at a later date to aid with other jobs like leaf removal from clogged storm drains. This would be a benefi-

cial perk in the City's parks.

Mayor Pro Tem James McCarron has been an avid supporter of in-house street sweeping for years. "The advantages of having in-house equipment would outweigh any disadvantages," he said. He asked whether the current issues with the contractor could be solved by adjusting the hours that they sweep as a temporary fix.

Currently, the sweeper is scheduled to work in the early morning from 5 a.m. to 6 a.m. McCarron asked if delaying the work to a later time, such as 9 a.m., would improve the quality of the sweeping. The Council will be looking into the costs of operating their own street sweeper before making a final decision at a future meeting.

## Main Street Board updates

The Main Street Advisory Board created a Vice-Chair position to allow the board to continue moving forward with a meeting in cases where the Chair, Brandi Bollinger, is absent.

Members discussed asking the current Main Street Manager Jay "Meash" Meashey or City Manager Jim Wieprecht to fill in; however, Sharon Tillman of the Promotions Committee expressed the importance of the Vice-Chair being a committee member and not a City employee. "I think it speaks to the integrity of this body and the work that we do as a grassroots effort for our Vice-Chair to be a Board member," she said.

Bollinger suggested rotating the position between the committee members, which was a well-received suggestion. She explained

that by rotating the position, it is less of a burden on one person and allows everyone a chance to experience the job. Members discussed creating a sign up through the Fiscal Year where they will be responsible for the Vice-Chair duties once every fifth month. The duties of the Vice-Chair are still to be determined.

The Board also discussed expanding the boundary of businesses included in the Main Street district. Currently, they operate with a jagged boundary line created in 2002 when they originally applied to the Department of Housing and Community Development to create their Main Street district. The expansion would add the NAPA Auto Parts store and A&W Country Meats to the district. Bringing the Post Office into the district was also discussed.

Tillman requested to "square the

map off" more, which could potentially add some residences to the district. "We could include more opportunities in the future should someone wish to add a business. Or we can just make the map less jagged," she said.

Adding in residences to smooth the map out could cause issues, according to Meashey. "This is hypothetical, but if the Council decided to impose a historical building restriction on the Main Street district, that could be a problem for any residence included in the district," he pointed out.

The Board's next step is to ask City Council for authorization to ask the Department of Community Development for the boundary expansion.

The creation of a future publication like the old Taneytown Record

was explored. Members debated the merits of a newsletter, journal and magazine. Tillman stated, "It needs to be for the people and about the people, not about the City of Taneytown or the City government." Stephanie Stephenson of the Clean, Green & Safe Committee agreed, saying that the publication should be at least partly about what's happen-

ing on Main Street since the Board would likely be paying for it. She described a publication where her committee could share the work of its volunteers, upcoming events, and business advertisements.

After much debate, they decided to further delve into the costs and logistics of publishing a newsletter before jumping right into publication.

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## FROM THE DESK OF...

# Thurmont Mayor John Kinnaird

It is hard to believe that we are halfway through 2024! It seems like just last month it was cold and wet and now here we are in one of the hottest summers on record. Please be careful when we see temperatures in the mid and upper 90s and high humidity. Young children and the elderly are especially susceptible to heat-induced issues including heat stroke. Be sure to keep hydrated, stay indoors if possible, and do not over-exert yourself. Also, keep in mind our four-legged friends, they are also suffering when the temps get above 90F.

Summertime also means that our children are on Summer break. Kids will be out on their bikes, skateboards, or run-

ning and playing. Please be on the lookout for children as you drive, they may not always be aware of their surroundings and cars as they are playing. Driving the speed limit and watching for our younger residents will keep everyone safer this Summer.

Major changes are being made at the Community Park Tennis Courts. The old courts have served us well and are in the process of being replaced with entirely new court surfaces, nets, fences, lights, and markings. Please be patient as this work progresses.

A major remodeling is underway at the Thurmont Bank Building on the Square! This work will include the creation

of new commercial spaces on the first floor and several apartments on the second and third floors. This project has been a long time coming, and we have all watched as several proposals were made but never materialized. The Thurmont Bank Building is the centerpiece of our community, having stood on the corner of West Main and Water Street since 1891. The bank was established by Samuel Birely and Van Osler in 1889 and served our community for several generations. During the time since 1891 the bank became a National Bank and actually issued its own currency for a short time.

Many will remember the apartment on the upper floors

and the people that occupied them including our beloved teacher, Ethel Crawford. The bank remained in local hands for most of its life, but in later years it changed hands several times eventually becoming a branch of the Bank of America. Eventually, Bank of America closed smaller, less productive branches and our bank was closed. The property sat vacant for several years and was eventually auctioned.

I tried to get our Board of Commissioners to purchase the building at auction and it sold to an investment firm in Florida for a little over \$200,000.00, which was a true bargain for such a substantial and historic building. They in turn sold it to a couple that had ideas of opening an ever-changing list of small businesses in the property. The build-

ing was completely gutted, making the renovation a major project. Everyone remembers the anticipation then let down as plans were revealed and then scrapped several times due to the cost of remodeling.

The building is now owned by a local company and they are getting ready to completely rebuild the interior. As I noted the first floor will have commercial space and the upper floors will once again be apartments. I look forward to the completion of the long-awaited renewal of this Thurmont landmark.

Karen and I hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable Summer.

Questions, comments, or suggestions, I can be reached by cell phone at 301-606-9458 or by email at [jkinnaird@thurmont.com](mailto:jkinnaird@thurmont.com).

# Emmitsburg Mayor Frank Davis

Summer is flying by, so I hope everyone is taking advan-

tage of the warm temperatures to enjoy all the outside activities

that are happening in the area. Please visit our website for a listing of events.

I am happy to report that the Commissioners approved the FY 25 Budget, and the tax rate

for property owners will stay the same. The budget includes two new positions, which includes an addition to the office staff and one position for water/sewer operations. You can review the budget on our website page.

I am excited to welcome two

new employees to our staff. Andrew Young is our new Code Enforcement Officer and began his employment on June 10<sup>th</sup>. Andrew recently retired from the Frederick County Sheriff's Department and in his early years was a resident of Emmitsburg.

Brandy Malocha joins our team as the first Town Operations Specialist. Brandy recently retired from Montgomery County Maryland and is excited to begin her new position. A majority of Brandy's time will be assisting the mayor, conducting studies and working on special projects that have been pushed to the bottom of the priority list, but our important to the success of our growing community. Please welcome Andrew and Brandy as they begin their new careers.

We would like to welcome Gettysburg Smoothie Company, located at 5 East Main Street. Stop in and enjoy one of their many delicious treats. There is something for the whole family.

Finally, I want to give you an update on several new businesses that are at various phases in their projects.

Penny Mart, located at 9 East Main Street, has gotten approvals from the Town and is scheduled to open in July.

Federal Stone located on Creamery Court is making its way through the final steps before construction of their building.

Plans are moving forward for the construction of a distillery also located on Creamery Court.

Christ Community Church located on Creamery Road, plans are currently being reviewed by the both the Town and the County and a lot of progress is being made.

Emmit Ridge II is in the initial design phase but moving forward at a fast pace.

The future of our town is looking bright as the potential for new homes and businesses grow at what I hope you see as a control pace, to meet the needs of your town.

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Candidates must file written application for candidacy and their Financial Disclosures with the Town Clerk no later than August 30 at 4 p.m.

All candidates will be posted on the Town bulletin board in alphabetical order.

The write-in deadline is September 23 at noon.

Three commissioner seats are up for election.

For more information visit [www.emmitsburgmd.gov](http://www.emmitsburgmd.gov) or call the Town Office at 301-600-6300.

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**HECM For Purchase**  
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**Divorce Settlement**  
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# GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE BORDER

## County Executive Jessica Fitzwater

I love this time of year! Fireworks, picnics, carnivals – there’s so much to do, including some activities that are unique to Frederick County. The only high wheel bicycle race in the nation rolls into Frederick on July 13th. Closer to home in Thurmont, the Catoctin Historical Society invites people to spend the Fourth at the Furnace. There are living history tours at the Seton Shrine in Emmitsburg. For the adventurous out there, try goat yoga at Links Bridge Vineyard in Thurmont.

### Award-winning transit

We know transportation can be a game-changer. Job opportunities expand and medical care improves when people have a safe and reliable way to get around. That’s why my administration made it a priority to expand transportation options. The County’s Transit staff collects input from our communities on ways our bus system can serve people better. As a result of talking with residents from Emmitsburg to Brunswick,

we have expanded shuttle service to Emmitsburg, Thurmont, Brunswick and Jefferson. Additionally, starting this month we are adding more frequent mid-day trips along the Golden Mile. And in case you hadn’t heard, it’s free to ride our buses!

These changes in service are a direct result of listening to riders and community members. It’s because we choose to meet people where they are that Transit Services of Frederick County was recently recognized as the best community transportation system in the nation for 2024! The Community Transportation Association of America presented the award at a conference two weeks ago. Frederick County won in the Large System category.

Transit earned the award for being creative, collaborating with other services, helping to meet community goals, building public-private partnerships, and providing transportation options that are accessible to everyone. Their work is making a differ-

ence. Ridership continues to grow.

I am incredibly proud of our Transit team for winning this prestigious national honor. This award is a testament to their professionalism and dedication. Transit expands opportunities that connect people to jobs, services, and opportunities.

### Building resiliency

Maryland’s U.S. Senators, Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen, came to Frederick County last month to recognize the work the County is doing to reduce our reliance on the region’s electrical grid. They presented a check for over \$1 million to help pay for a solar-powered microgrid at the Prospect Center off U.S. Route 15.

The Prospect Center currently houses the Department of Facility Maintenance and the Office of Construction Inspection. More agencies and services will move to the facility in the next two to three years, including the 9-1-1 center and the Emergency

Operations Center.

Solar panels on the roof will generate electricity for the facility and charge backup batteries in case of a power outage. Once the system is built, Frederick will be the first county in Maryland to have its 9-1-1 call center powered by a microgrid. We expect to break ground on the project next year.

The microgrid will save us money on utility bills and make the Prospect Center less vulnerable to power outages. What’s really exciting is that the project will also allow the public to use part of the Prospect Center as a Resiliency Hub. A Resiliency Hub is a space that has back up power so if the community loses power, residents can access heat or air-conditioning and plug in medical equipment.

I am extremely grateful to Senator Cardin and Senator Van Hollen for their support for this important clean-energy project in a neighborhood that has been historically underserved. The senators requested and secured funds for the project through the Congressionally Directed

Spending program through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

### FCG TV

If you watch the County’s public meetings on Comcast cable, be sure to add Channel 1072 to your list of favorites. That’s the new home for Frederick County Government’s high-definition television station, FCG TV. You can still find the standard-definition broadcast on Channel 19. You can also stream the HD version online from FrederickCountyMD.gov/FCGtv.

If you aren’t familiar with FCG TV, the channel airs more than public meetings. You can also find original programming, like the twice-a-month news magazine County Perspective. Series like Farming Frederick and Destination Frederick highlight some of the best our community has to offer. You can also watch profiles of residents, spotlights on County resources and services, public service announcements, and more. All the original shows can be found on YouTube.com/FrederickCountyMD.

## County Council President Brad Young

The Frederick County Council meets regularly on Tuesday evenings at 5:30 pm at Winchester Hall, located at 12 East Church Street in downtown Frederick. All meetings are open to the public, and we welcome participation.

On June 18, the Council passed Bill 24-07, Amending Chapter 1-19 of the Zoning Ordinance to Update the Definitions of Bodywork and Add New Approval Criteria. This bill passed by 7-0 vote and was sponsored by Council Members Renee Knapp and M.C. Keegan-Ayer on behalf of County Executive Fitzwater. The Council also passed Bill 24-08 by 7-0 vote, Establishing a Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund. I sponsored this bill on behalf of County Executive Fitzwater. The full text of our bills can be found on our website and are also linked to each corresponding agenda.

The Council has two bills cur-

rently advancing through our legislative process in the coming weeks. Bill 24-09, sponsored by Council Member Mason Carter, amends the Accessory Uses on Residential Properties by providing guidance on the keeping of eight or fewer chickens. Bill 24-10, sponsored by Council Member M.C. Keegan-Ayer, provides new design criteria for Commercial Solar Facilities in the Agricultural Zoning District. Please visit our website for the full text of our bills and most up to date schedules. The final vote on Bills 24-09 and 24-10 is scheduled for July 2.

These two bills had their public hearings by the Council on June 18th. Bill 24-09, introduced by Council Member Carter would provide guidance on the keeping of eight or fewer chickens on residential properties.

Bill 24-10, introduced by Council Member Keegan-Ayer

will allow large scale solar collection facilities on certain Ag zoned land as a permitted use with site plan approval, and put in place certain requirements pertaining to setbacks, landscaping, screening, and lighting as part of the site plan approval process. It will also place requirements for the removal of all the solar collection equipment and the restoration of the property at the end of the term of the lease, when the equipment ceases to generate electricity, or when the facility does not input electricity into the grid for six months.

I encourage everyone to review these pieces of legislation and let the Council know your thoughts before the final votes scheduled for July 2nd.

The Frederick County Council encourages public involvement at every stage of the legislative process. We welcome public comment at every Council meeting on Tuesday evenings. Members of

the public are welcome to attend and give comment in person, leave a voicemail to be forwarded to each council member, or email us any time at councilmembers@frederickcountymd.gov. Please visit our website at www.frederickcountymd.gov/countycouncil to view our latest agendas, legislation, and upcoming calendar of events.

The Council will be taking its summer recess in the coming weeks and will not be meeting on July 30, August 6, or August 13.

And as always, if there is ever anything I can do for you, please feel free to reach out to me and my office. You can contact me via email at: BYoung@FrederickCountyMD.gov, or you can call my office at 301-600-1108.

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## FROM THE DESK OF...

# Carroll Valley Mayor Ron Harris

The Carroll Valley's annual fireworks display will be held July 4th on Ski Liberty Mountain at 9:45 pm. The Carroll Valley's Commons (park) and free parking will open at 5:30 pm. Once again, "The Reagan Years" band will be in concert on the Carroll Commons Stage. This band recreates the sounds of the 1980s. These talented musicians with remarkably diverse vocal abilities enable this group to replicate uncanny versions of the pop, rock, new wave, and heavy metal hits of the MTV era. The band covers all the mega-artists. So, bring your family, your friends, and your neighbors. Pack your picnic basket or stop by one of the food trucks. The venue is all grass seating, so bring chairs or blankets and save a little room around you to dance! As our borough manager, Dave Hazlett, said, "What began as a small community picnic in 2006 has evolved into a musical celebration of the community." So please come and join our community and celebrate the anniversary of our country with your friends and neighbors. The show begins at 6:30 pm and lasts until 9:45 p.m. when the fireworks explode on top of the mountain.

The summer started on June 20th, the longest day of the year. During July and August, we need to pay attention to

heat advisories. It would be best if you understood the difference between an "Excessive Heat Warning" and a Heat Advisory." Excessive Heat Warning means "the Heat Index values are forecasted to meet or exceed locally defined warning criteria for at least two days of daytime highs = 105 degrees Fahrenheit or higher". A Heat Advisory means the "Heat Index is forecasted to meet locally defined advisory criteria for 1 to 2 days of daytime highs 100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher".

During a heatwave, you should listen to the updates from the National Weather Service. Stay hydrated by drinking fluids. Avoid drinks with caffeine or alcohol. Use the buddy system when working in excessive heat and take frequent breaks if you must work outdoors. Check on your animals frequently to ensure they do not suffer from the heat. Please discuss heat safety precautions with members of your household. Also, we need to be aware that the summer months represent a time when the cases of Lyme disease increase. Why? The reason is that we spend more time outdoors enjoying where we live.

In Pennsylvania, Lyme disease is the most reported tick-borne disease and

is usually seen from June through September months throughout the commonwealth. Lyme disease is an infection caused by the bacterium *Borrelia burgdorferi*. It is carried to people from a black-legged or deer tick bite. The disease affects different body systems, such as the nervous system, joints, skin, and heart. Early symptoms may include headache, fever, fatigue, and a characteristic circular skin rash. Some of the things you should consider when you are out and about are: stay out of tall grass and un-cleared areas of the forest floor; don't roll in a pile of leaves; check daily for ticks; and if you plan to use insect repellent, be sure to review the safety information on the label. Many websites provide information on Lyme disease. One site you may want to visit is [www.cdc.gov/lyme](http://www.cdc.gov/lyme). This website addresses diagnosis, testing, treatment, tick removal, and post-treatment Lyme disease syndrome. Please be careful. Enjoy summer, and keep safe.

The 161st anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg is right around the corner, and Destination Gettysburg is promoting this year's anniversary as a 10-day commemoration beginning June 28 and running through July 7. The commemoration will include a

variety of programs and tours at Gettysburg National Military Park, re-enactments at the Daniel Lady Farm and Shriver House Museum, the Gettysburg Foundation's Sacred Trust Series, living history encampments, the Civil War Collector's Show, return of "The Night Before Gettysburg", as well as programs, lectures, and events at museums and historic sites throughout the destination.

Carroll Valley is celebrating our 50th anniversary. The municipality was incorporated in September 1974. September 1974 may seem distant to many, but for long-time residents of the Borough, it marks the end of a tumultuous past and the beginning of renewed hope for the future. Carroll Valley has accumulated fifty years of learning and growth, which is quite an accomplishment. However, for a Borough in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, it is considered relatively young, still in its adolescence. The Borough, in collaboration with a group of remarkable volunteers, is planning a celebration on Sunday, September 22nd, to reflect on these accomplishments. The event will feature a time capsule and historic display, and the public is encouraged to contribute. The Borough is currently accepting items for the time capsule and historic items and documents for dis-

play until July 31st.

The Borough will also commemorate this momentous anniversary with a unique photographic journey celebrating the Borough's past and present. "Fifty Years of Memories" will highlight Carroll Valley's history and the people who have made our Borough a remarkable place to live. To make this milestone especially memorable, the Borough invites Carroll Valley residents, businesses, and visitors to share still photographs that capture the essence and uniqueness of our beloved Valley over the past five decades.

Photos of past and present residents, special events, historical happenings, and our beautiful open spaces will be digitized upon submission and original returned. The digitized photos will be curated and bound in a commemorative book available at the Carroll Valley Library for all to enjoy. A few dozen photos will be selected for display on the walls of the Borough Office. Upon project completion, all will be welcome to drop by the Borough Office Building to view these photos and enjoy the commemorative book. Everyone is welcome to submit photos; please limit the pictures to 10 per person. For more information, please call or visit the Borough Office at -717-642-8269; 5685 Fairfield Road, Fairfield.

# Liberty Township Supervisor Walter Barlow

The Board of Supervisors met on June 4 and was able to answer many resident questions at the meeting. Some changes were made recently within our Police Department. Terry De Witt is the acting Officer in Charge, effective June 15th. We want to thank him for stepping into this role. He currently works with the Washington Township Police Department in Franklin County and has been there for over 20 years. Chief Don Boehs' resigned from the Chief's

position effective June 14th. We want to thank him for his service to the Police Department and look forward to continuing to work with him as a part-time officer. Liberty Township is currently accepting applications for a full-time Chief of Police, part-time police officers, and part-time positions within the Road Department. Anyone interested is encouraged to submit a resume and letter of interest to the Township.

Liberty Township awarded the roadwork bid for full depth reclamation of Bullfrog Road to New Enterprise at the June meeting. Detours will be in place during the work, and I anticipate that the work will be completed before the school year begins. The Township is contracting work for replacing thirteen pipes on Bullfrog Road and upgrading the pipe sizes to handle more stormwater to be adequate for future use. A lot of the pipes have been undersized

for some time, and the re-direction of water will prevent damage to the Township roads. The Road Department is also scheduling base repairs around the Township.

Our mower is currently out of service and is in the shop getting the parts it needs. The Road Department will be back out mowing as soon as the mower is repaired and returned to the Township. There are many signs along Township roads that have been knocked down or damaged. The Road Department

is currently repairing and replacing these signs. Some signs are frequently hit each year, so we will be talking to property owners about relocating these signs. The farming season has started off well for hay, so be alert as tractors and hay wagons travel along the public roads. Please don't make any drastic decisions that could potentially cause an accident.

Notifications for septic system maintenance and inspection went out recently to remind homeowners to have their sep-

continued on next page



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<p><b>****ACTIVE****</b></p> <p><b>55 Lightning Tr., Carroll Valley, PA</b>                      Gently sloping perc approved lot on a quiet street in Adams County. Perfect location for getting away from the bustle of the cities. Survey was performed and corners are marked. <b>\$23,500</b></p> <p><b>524 Country Club Tr., Carroll Valley, PA</b>                      Here is a great parcel, less than a mile to Liberty Mt. Ski/Golf Resort. A house on this lot offers a view of part of the Golf Course and Lake Mae. .66 Acres. <b>\$12,500</b></p> <p><b>13 Kern Tr., &amp; 13 Pinehurst Tr., Carroll Valley, PA</b>                      13 Kern Tr. &amp; 13 Pinehurst Tr. are being sold together giving you a 1 acre parcel for your home. Pinehurst Tr. already has a well drilled with 5 GPM at 260'. The lot is perc approved. The two lots are wooded and at the base of Liberty Mountain Ski Resort that also offers a great Golf Course. Great location here in the very desirable Carroll Valley Borough with easy commuter routes. Very Close to the Historic Gettysburg Battlefield of your choice. No HOA. <b>\$49,000</b></p>	<p><b>***RESIDENTIAL LEASE***</b></p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p><b>9 Snowbird Tr., Carroll Valley, PA</b>                      Upper Level</p> <p>Great one level living rental. Kitchen has new cabinets and appliances, new laminate flooring, fresh paint job throughout. Oil forced air heating, central A/C. Public sewer. Bathrooms have been remodeled. 3 BR, 2 BA., fenced back yard, large deck. Background &amp; credit check required. Tenant pays trash &amp; sewer. 12 month lease. \$25 fee for credit report payable to Mt. View Realty. Lower level is already rented. <b>\$1,500</b> Per month</p>
<p><b>****PENDING****</b></p> <p><b>4 Tiger Tr., Carroll Valley, PA</b>                      Unique 2 ac. parcel, wooded, w/slope for a great view. Close to Liberty Ski/Golf Resort. 215' Toms Creek access for fishing. Close to Historic Gettysburg battle field. Camping permitted for 3 consecutive nights. Check w/Liberty Township. <b>\$25,000</b></p>	



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# GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE BORDER

## County Commissioner Randy Phiel

Affordable Housing remains a critical issue in Adams County and is a high priority of this Board. At the June 12 public meeting, the Board was pleased to approve an Affordable Housing Trust Fund Agreement with SCCAP. The Agreement paves the way for the phased re-development of the second floor of the old Columbia Gas Building on Stratton Street in Gettysburg that serves as SCCAP's administrative offices for the renovation of 4 housing units. The grant award of \$300,000 was approved unanimously by the Board! We appreciate SCCAP's collaboration on this project! The Board is currently supporting a 40-unit project at Misty Ridge with a determination expected sometime in July.

Although it is very necessary, maintaining, training, and equipping a Hazardous Material Response Team, for a limited number of calls per year, is very costly. At the June 12 public meeting, the Board approved and signed a contract with York County to provide this service to Adams County. The cost will be \$8000 for a term of 1-year. The Board also approved an agreement with CCAP and PEMA which affirms the existence of the Hazmat contract with York County and acknowledges the duty of the County to report dispatches of

the Hazmat Response Team to the Commonwealth of PA Response & Coordination center.

The Adams County Board of Commissioners had the distinct pleasure of recognizing 100-year-old WWII veteran Levato Jacob Thomas with a proclamation pronouncing June 10 as Levato Jacob Thomas Day in Adams County. Thomas joined the WWII Nurse Cadet program and was transferred to the McGuire Army Hospital in Richmond where she remained stationed until 2 weeks after the war ended. Proudly representing the Adams County Board of Commissioners, on Saturday, June 8, Treasurer Crissy Redding presented the proclamation with an audience of 125 family and friends of Thomas at the Gettysburg Brethren Church on Biglerville Road. Crissy reports it was a very rewarding and uplifting experience. She also reported she now has a new best friend and has been invited to visit. Thank you, Crissy, for filling in for the commissioners at this very special occasion for this Adams County veteran and her family!

At a previous public meeting, Warren Bladen, Director of the Department of Emergency Services, presented a Clinical Save Commendation from the Emergency Health Services Federation (EHSF) to Kim

Hope, Telecommunicator, for providing lifesaving CPR instructions over the phone that resulted in a successful resuscitation. Unfortunately, resuscitation attempts are not often successful, so this recognition is richly deserved. Recently, our Adams County Telecommunicators have received several awards for their outstanding and critical interactions that have resulted in positive outcomes. A shout out to our telecommunicators who are always there for us 24/7 to facilitate assistance in some of our most significant times of need!

Two thousand acres of preserved Ag Land in Adams County is indeed an attention getting number! This has been achieved through a series of Agricultural Easements with Hanover Shoe Farms along with numerous partners. This land preservation legacy continues with the most recent Agricultural Easement with Hanover Shoe Farms, Inc., Union Township, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania through the Department of Agriculture. The easement was approved at Wednesday's public meeting as presented by Adams County Rural Resource Manager Ellen Dayhoff.

This Agreement provides for the purchase of a conservation easement for the purpose of preserving 161.32 acres of agricultural land

owned by Hanover Shoe Farms located in Union Township. The total purchase price of the easement is \$548,488.00, of which \$27,424.00 will be paid for by the County and the remainder by the Commonwealth and the Township. As development pressure in the eastern part of the County accelerates, easements such as this ensure that designated portions of the County will retain the agrarian landscape that is part of our Adams County history and fabric!

There are a lot of great activities in Adams County centered around the July 4TH weekend to take advantage of, including the community celebration on July 4TH with music and fireworks at the Gettysburg Rec Park. It's also Adams County produce time. Strawberries are over and peaches, apples, tomatoes, and sweet corn are on the horizon. Get out there and experience all the historical, recreational, agricultural, natural, and cultural opportunities that beautiful Adams County has to offer!

There are two Adams County traffic detours that may impact many Adams Countians this month. On Rt. 116W Fairfield Road, the bridge replacement project is underway near the Gettysburg Times in Cumberland Township. As crews prepared for the bridge reconstruc-

tion, PennDOT warns of possible lane restrictions over the next two weeks, and a full road closure is set to begin on July 20. PennDOT has established a detour to begin on July 20 using Knoxlyn-Orrtanna Road, Knoxlyn Road, and Route 30. All work is expected to be completed by August 14.

A detour began on June 13, on Rt 97 for a box culvert and retaining wall replacement project on Route 97 in Germany Township. The structures are located between Mathias Road and Georgetown Road just north of the Maryland state line. Weather permitting, the detour is expected to be lifted by Friday, August 16, 2024. Traffic heading north from south of the closure should take Old Hanover Road north near Union Mills in Maryland and cross into Pennsylvania where the road is designated Pine Grove Road. They should continue north on Pine Grove Road to Route 194 (Hanover Pike/King Street), then head west on that road to Littlestown Borough and Route 97. Traffic heading south from north of the closure should take Route 194 (King Street/Hanover Pike) in Littlestown Borough east to Pine Grove Road, head south on Pine Grove Road to the Maryland state line, where the road is designated Old Hanover Road, and continue to Route 97 south of the closure near Union Mills.

continued from previous page

tic tanks serviced by October 31. A list of registered septic haulers was included in the mailing. If you have had your septic pumped recently, we may not have received the report from the hauler. Please call the office with the name of the hauler and date of pumping and we will obtain the report for you. Please be aware that your Fairfield Area School District tax bills were mailed out on July 1. Send in your payments by August 30, to take advantage of the 2% discount rate.

During the summer, residents do a lot of home improvement or property improvement projects. Not all maintenance improvements to your property require a zoning permit, but Adams County requires that you receive a waiver form from the Township. There is no cost for the waiver, so please contact us to obtain one before beginning any project if you are not already obtaining a permit.

As you are travelling this summer, have safe trips by ensuring you keep emergency supplies in your car in case it breaks down. This would include water, non-perishable food, back up batteries for your phone, and supplies to repair a flat tire. If you are on vacation and want someone to keep an eye on your property while you are away, our Police Department conducts house checks. Please contact the Police Department to coordinate this.

Carroll Valley Borough will be hosting its annual Independence Day Celebration on July 4th. There will be food trucks,

fireworks, and lots to do for your entire family! Additionally, during the holiday, please be mindful of local ordinances regarding fire-

works before you decide to light any. Be sure to check for fire bans in the area if you are planning on having bonfires any time this sum-

mer. We still have supplies left for our Pick Up PA event, please contact the Township Office to receive free trash bags, gloves,

and safety vests that can be used to help clean up local roads and water ways. I hope everyone has a safe and fun Fourth of July!

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# COMMENTARY

## Words from Winterbilt

### The economy, facts, myths & reality

Shannon Bohrer

The age of divisiveness, party loyalty over country, and alternative facts can be confusing. When one feels or accepts that diversity may have some predictability, one is reminded of the unexpected depth of abnormality. Watching a reputable morning news program (they do exist), a well-known economist used charts to explain a wide range of current beliefs. The first bewildering fact was that fifty-one percent of Americans, according to a recent poll by the Harris Guardian, believe America is in a recession. A similar survey reported that fifty-six percent believe America is in a recession. However, it is a fact that our economy is not just thriving; it is one of the best economies in the developed world.

Four years ago, many experts believed we would have a recession, but it never occurred. According to the New York Times and other reputable organizations, our economy is booming. It has also been widely reported that the United States is one of the best economies in the world. Unemployment is at a fifty-year low, the stock market is at an all-time high, and workers' wages are exceed-

ing inflation. The United States, compared to the other G-7 countries, "Has the highest gross domestic product growth over the last three years while also seeing inflation come down faster than most of the other wealthy countries."

If the recession predicted did not occur, why do people believe we are in a recession? Of course, a similar question could be asked about numerous topics. There is not just a diversity of thoughts and beliefs in our society but also a diversity of news outlets, which could help to explain the divisions of our perceptions and beliefs. Mark Twain once said, "If you don't read the newspaper, you're uninformed. If you read the newspaper, you're misinformed." So, which half is uninformed or misinformed?

While partisan news outlets generally report facts and figures that confirm their beliefs, or the beliefs of their readers, reporting or even indicating that we are in a recession could reflect Mark Twain's words of being "...misinformed." According to an Axios Vibes survey by the Harris Poll, sixty-three percent of Americans believe their financial situation is "good." In those numbers, nineteen percent reveal their financial situation as "very good." And yet, over half of those polled believe we are in a recession. Simultaneously, an

Axios Vibes survey by the Harris Poll found that "Americans overall have a surprising degree of satisfaction with their economic situation."

Television reporters and news pundits like to say that very often, public surveys reflect the past and present but not the future. With that logic, people responding to the polls may be thinking of the predicted recession. However, polls taken early in 2024 indicated that the majority believed that 2024 would be better than 2023. In that same poll, eighty-five percent felt they could improve their financial situation in 2024. The polls reflect similar estimates from the Wall Street Journal, predicting "growth in both GDP and real wages for the rest of the year."

How can so much polling and optimism about our financial situation and future be interpreted as a recession? When explaining the differences the pundits often reflect on those that have been left behind, individuals and families that have difficulties meeting their basic needs. Food prices, the increases in cost of gasoline and housing expense have all gone up. Those categories are often mentioned when explaining how people feel about the economy.

Food companies and the fossil fuel industries are making record profits, which should not surprise anyone. While salaries have increased, in many areas, the increases have not kept up with the cost of living, espe-

cially rent. Yet, in another poll, seventy-seven percent of Americans like where they live, including renters. However, renters tend to see their financial situation as poor more often than homeowners. The rising cost of renting is considered a large factor, yet sixty-three percent of renters have no interest in homeownership. If one has trouble paying the rent because of increases, saving for a down payment to purchase a home may not be a consideration.

A logical yet seemingly illogical view is that the polling on our economy is reflective of people who can hold two ideas with opposing views as both true. Two things can be true at the same time, but when the two things seem to contradict each other, how can both be true? With the diversity of news available today, it is possible to shop for the news that fits one's beliefs and ignore facts that dispute one's beliefs. However, in this case, each side of the economic polling disputes the other side.

Unusual or strange beliefs, and thought processes, have always existed. So, maybe we should not be surprised when two opposing views are both held. The problem for many of us may be our belief in logic as a foundation of our beliefs. It seems illogical for so many people that believe they are economically well off to also believe we are in a recession. Conversely, when examining the issue, does logic hinder one's ability to see both sides of a problem?

According to H.L. Menchen, "For every complex problem there is an answer that is clear, simple and wrong."

Recently, the World Bank estimated "the global economy will expand 2.6 percent" this year. The World Bank also said the U.S. economy in "Impressive" and is leading the world growth. Accordingly, the Bank also said, "the global economy is in better shape than it was at the start of the year, thanks largely to the performance of the United States." That's us.

If we have two opposing views on our economy that contradict one another, what other views do we have that, from a logical point of view, seem illogical? Addressing that question is the diversity we read and hear about every day. For too many of us, the differences are illogical, and trying to use logic to understand the differences has yet to work. Reflecting on Mark Twain's quote, is it possible that in general people are either uninformed or misinformed?

"The first lesson of economics is scarcity: there is never enough of anything to fully satisfy all those who want it. The first lesson of politics is to disregard the first lesson of economics." - Thomas Sowell.

In a convoluted way, that makes sense.

*To read prior editions of Words From Winterbilt, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.*

## The Bulwark

### A response to Mitt Romney

Jonathan Last

Mitt Romney gave a statement about the Trump felony verdict: "Bragg should have settled the case against Trump, as would have been the normal procedure. But he made a political decision. Bragg may have won the battle, for now, but he may have lost the political war. Democrats think they can put out the Trump fire with oxygen. It's political malpractice."

Romney is wrong on the law, wrong on the politics, and wrong on the morality. It is worth exploring each of his misapprehensions in some detail.

But before we start: I have a great deal of respect for Romney and you should, too. He's honestly wrong here and it would be both incorrect and unfair to impute bad faith to him.

Wrong on the law. Romney believes that the Manhattan district attorney should have settled on a plea agreement with Trump. The problem with this scenario is that it is not clear what plea Trump would have agreed to. In fact, reason and circumstantial evidence suggest that Trump would not have been amenable to any plea bargain.

First, if Trump had sought a plea, there would have been tremendous pressure on the DA to take it.

Second, if Trump had sought a plea and the DA rebuffed him, then it would have been to Trump's political advantage to broadcast this fact. It would have been easy for Trump to say that the maniacal prosecutor wouldn't take yes for an answer and was hell-bent on going to trial. I am unaware of any report, anywhere, that suggested that Trump had sought a plea.

Third, Trump's behavior in the classified documents case suggests that his legal posture has been to dare prosecutors to indict him and then try him. It seems unlikely that Trump's defiant stance in the stolen documents case would have become a cooperative stance in the Stormy Daniels election interference case.

Is it possible that Alvin Bragg could have negotiated against himself and begged Trump to plead down to some misdemeanor? Perhaps. But that would have been, contra Romney, a highly abnormal process.

Wrong on the politics. Romney asserts that this conviction will be a political net positive for Trump. There is no polling evidence yet to support this belief, but neither should we dismiss it out of hand.

Could this conviction help Trump? Sure. Crazier things have happened.

But on the other hand, not pursuing accountability for Trump also seems to have helped him. Trump is the Republican nominee. He is leading Joe Biden in most polls. How much better could things get for Trump?

The strangest part of Romney's comment is this: Democrats think they can put out the Trump fire with oxygen. It's political malpractice.

It's not clear which Democrats he's talking about here. Alvin Bragg? Jamie Raskin? Joe Biden? The decision to indict and try Trump was vested entirely with Bragg. No other Democrat had—or should have had—a say.

By the same token, who is trying to put out the Trump fire with oxygen? Is Romney talking about Bragg's decision to try Trump, or Biden's decision to publicly note that his opponent is a convicted felon?

If Romney means the latter, then I respectfully disagree. Again: Biden stayed far away from this case while it was an ongoing proceeding and the result was that Trump did well in the polls. Now that the proceeding is closed and Trump has been found guilty, Biden is trying to communicate this fact to the public.

Would Trump's poll numbers go down if Biden didn't tell voters that his opponent was a convicted felon? I doubt it.

Wrong on the morality. We don't want prosecutors to be making political calculations.

Imagine the following scenario: It's 2008 and a district attorney is investigating a murder. She has both solid evidence and an overwhelming belief that John Smith committed the murder. Further, she has a reasonable belief that she will attain a conviction if she takes the case to trial.

But a time traveler appears in her office. He says, "If you decline

to indict John Smith, then Barack Obama will win the presidential election."

Our district attorney loves Barack Obama and very much wants him to become president. So she decides not to indict. John Smith walks and Obama becomes president.

Would you say that our district attorney did the right thing? Or would you say that politics corrupted her judgment?

The power of the state is an awesome thing, which is why I do not understand the moral arguments around Trump's conviction.

Does Romney wish that Bragg had allowed his decision-making process to be guided by what he believed would most hurt Trump's political chances?

Does Romney think that the president of the United States should have reached out to the Manhattan district attorney and attempted to influence his decision on a criminal indictment?

Because to me, both of those scenarios would have been deeply corrupt. The state's power over the individual should always be guided by evidence and the interests of justice and never be influenced by politics.

Our legal system often falls short of this ideal. But that doesn't mean we should abandon it.

The last thing I'd ask Sen. Romney is this: "Is Trump guilty?"

That's really the only question that matters.

Was the evidence presented at trial genuine? Was the testimony given corroborated? Was a fair jury

empaneled? Did the defendant present a competent and vigorous defense? Could a reasonable jury have decided that Trump violated the written word of the law?

If the answer to these five questions was yes, then Donald Trump is guilty and everything else is an attempt to avoid grappling with this base fact.

I share Romney's discomfort. But everything in life is opportunity cost. The jury's verdict was bad for America. But it would have been at least as bad for America—and possibly worse—for the Manhattan district attorney to have looked at the overwhelming evidence of Trump's crimes and chosen not to hold him accountable.

It would have been at least as bad—and possibly worse—for the district attorney to have indicted Trump and then begged Trump to accept a plea bargain.

And this impossible situation in which there are no good outcomes is what happens when the American people chose to give a criminal the most powerful office in the world.

Good men, like Mitt Romney, eventually realize that they cannot control, check, or rehabilitate the criminal. And so eventually they blame the systems that try to enforce accountability for the dissonances and ill effects of accountability.

Alvin Bragg didn't put America in this position. Neither did Joe Biden or "Democrats" generally. Donald Trump did.

*To read other articles from the Bulwark, visit [www.thebulwark.com](http://www.thebulwark.com).*

# The Liberal Patriot

Rural voters aren't a threat to democracy

Erica Etelson

Ever since candidate Donald Trump swept 66 percent of the rural vote in 2016, bewildered urban and suburban Democrats have wondered aloud: "Why do they vote against their own interests?" But the question they should be asking is: "What are rural voters' interests and what can we do to help address them?"

After all, as recently as 2008, Barack Obama won 45 percent of the rural vote. A lot of rural folks used to vote for Democrats. What drove so many into the GOP's corner?

Colby College professors of government Nicholas Jacobs and Daniel Shea set out to answer that question in, *The Rural Voter: The Politics of Place and the Disuniting of America*. Drawing from historical data as well as their own survey of 10,000 rural voters, Jacobs and Shea provide a complex analysis of rural attitudes, culture, and voting behavior.

As someone fairly desperate to reverse Democrats' losses in rural America, I badly wanted to hear that the problem was simple and remediable. Economic implosion? Remedy: Massive public and philanthropic investment in rural communities. Cultural marginalization? Respect rural lifeways and increase their representation in media and entertainment. Fox News radicalization? Revive local journalism.

These diagnoses and prescriptions are correct, according to Shea and Jacobs, but insufficient. They are mere strands, knotted together with a host of other causal agents, including resentment (sometimes but not usually of a racial variety), right-wing cultivation of a nationalized, conservative rural identity pitted against urban "others," and place-based pride.

When it comes to pinning down the primary drivers of rural-urban polarization, the role of economic precarity is the most difficult to decipher. According to the authors, it's not clear that rural America is, on the whole, significantly worse off than urban America. Suffice it to say that inequality and poverty are rampant across geographies.

But rural people feel more economic anxiety than their urban and suburban counterparts. Why?

This is where the related concepts of shared fate and place-based identity take on significance. Rural and small town communities are less class-segregated than cities and suburbs, with trailers and fancy homes in close proximity. Wealthier residents may be able to weather downturns, but they're painfully aware of their neighbors' plight. What's more, rural communities are united in defensiveness against those whom they perceive to be denigrating and undermining their way of life. Their collective group identity has many dimensions, but the grievance that stems from being continually disrespected by others is foundational.

Rural residents have strong feelings of attachment, pride and loyalty to their homes. When urbanites disparage their beloved communities as "flyover country" or "backward backwaters" inhabited by "stupid, racist trailer trash," well, no big surprise, they get mad. Keenly attuned to condescension and scorn, their resentment deepens with every derogatory remark and stereotypical portrayal. And that resentment is grist for a partly true but incomplete story: Their community's hardships are caused or made worse by urban liberals who don't care about them, look down on them, and maybe even hate them.

The missing part of the story, of course, is that most Republican elites don't care about them either. But at least they pretend to.

Even a thriving rural community's economic prosperity doesn't inoculate it against a defensive rural identity that binds people together against their detractors. The authors explain that unflattering media portrayals are "a major source of rural grievance—a simmering anger that has politicized their distinctive identity and put them in the service of exploitative politicians willing to wage war on behalf of the real America." This incredibly important insight invokes what is perhaps liberals' most pervasive unforced error—the very bad habit of positing themselves as morally, culturally, economically, and intellectually superior to the "deplorables."

Rural folks naturally defend themselves. Most of them quietly lick their wounds and vote Republican, but a minority—about ten percent get extremely riled up.

Festooned in MAGA swag, they say and do inflammatory things that get them profiled on cherry-picked TV shows, which then provokes another round of sweeping denunciations of the nativists who are ruining the perfectly multicultural and science-abiding democracy that the righteous progressive elites worship.

And around and around it goes—in an ugly and unnecessary round of mutual contempt and hatred.

Country folk have a long memory for insult, but they don't need one; the jabs keep coming. If a community of people continually shake their heads at how they are portrayed, if they feel they are constantly reduced to a caricature, it would make sense that resentment would build—and that a shared fate ethos would gain steam.

Hell hath no fury like a voter scorned.

In politics, perception is reality. If rural people feel disdained, then it behooves those courting their vote to telegraph empathy and respect instead.

The latest categorical condemnation of rural America comes in the form of a book entitled, *White Rural Rage: The Threat to American Democracy*. This misleading and supremely unhelpful book enjoyed a mercifully brief moment in the limelight before savvier reviewers, rural progressive leaders, and scholars demolished its factual and analytical foundation.

If there's an existential threat to democracy, it's not white rural voters, it's rural-urban and red-blue polarization. It's a small

minority on each side inciting fear and loathing of some subset of the other. The "Antifa" bogeyman is to the right what "raging white rubes" represent to the left—an intentionally overblown caricature of the other team's most objectionable characters. Meanwhile, the divide deepens, alienation festers into hatred, and undemocratic measures become rationalized as the necessary means of taming such dangerous elements.

If there's a loose strand in the wicked knot presented by Jacobs and Shea, it's that rural voters' opinions on most issues are only a little, if that, to the right of mainstream public opinion.

This presents an opening for local Democratic parties and candidates running in overwhelmingly Republican districts: Show up with a respectful attitude; Listen to rural voters' concerns and grievances; Build trusting relationships across lines of difference by working together on civic improvement projects (such as the Rural Urban Bridge Initiative's "Community Works" program); and Present "place-specific," bottom-up solutions that most American voters would find palatable.

What are some of these smart solutions? Clean energy projects on abandoned coalfields; materials reuse corridors; free trade school; and investment in local food processing facilities so that small producers can compete against Big Ag. There's no shortage of good ideas, just a political divide that keeps them from getting the attention they deserve.

To read other articles from the *Liberal Patriot*, visit [www.liberalpatriot.com](http://www.liberalpatriot.com).

# Good Day Neighbor

Political pendulums in America

Dorothea Mordan

Early success of Republican Party was driven by wokeness. It started with a clerk, a cape and a speech, and became a movement that grew into a significant percent of the Union Army when the Civil War broke out a year later.

It was 1860, several weeks before the Republican National Convention, where Abraham Lincoln would become the nominee. The clerk was Edgar Yergason. He worked at Talcott & Post's textile shop in Hartford Connecticut. The cape was Yergason's quickly sewn protection from oil that dripped down the torch he would carry on February 25, 1860. The speech that evening was given by Cassius Marcellus Clay, a passionate abolitionist who advocated for insurrection against slavery.

Slavery was a contested issue in every way possible, whether to ban or allow slavery to persist in new states as they joined the Union, or requiring Free States to return runaway slaves. There was more at work in the abolition movement than doing the right thing. For every abolitionist who recognized that humans own-

ing each other is wrong, there many other antislavery Americans who saw slavery as a way of southern states to count slaves as members of the population for the purpose of increasing southern representation in Congress, without having to give any rights to the enslaved. Lots of people who do the right thing are also self-serving. Other people join in when they see purpose gaining momentum. When Yergason's co-workers saw his new outfit, they wanted one too. The quickly sewn capes became a uniform of sorts.

Nineteen year old Yergason and his cohort took their capes and torches to march in the parade after Clay's speech. They made such an impression as a group that they were brought to a position of prominence in the parade. Over the next month as they showed up at other political events, they realized their actions were inspiring anti slavery groups all around the country. They formalized their group, giving themselves the name "The Wide Awakes".

The Wide Awakes were comprised of people from different cultures and backgrounds, with different beliefs, coming together in a common cause—abolishing slavery while holding the Union together. They played a big part in the Union

Army prevailing in the Civil War. A diverse group working as one, leads to success in America, once there is a common purpose. At some point the colors of our flag became marketing tools for identifying our political parties and their respective purpose. Red for Republican, blue for Democrat. I've never been a fan of using the colors of our flag as marketing tools. Two bold colors used to define rigid opinion and purpose.

Our country's success is not because of rigid opinion. We have just honored the eightieth anniversary of D-Day and the scale and scope of Americans coming together for a focused purpose—putting an end to fascism taking over other countries. We had plenty of political voices calling for us not to enter World War II. The most organized were from a large faction of American Nazis spread across the country. It included average citizens, wealthy businessmen, Congressmen and Senators, some colluding directly with Hitler's Nazi Party leaders. Many loyal Americans, from newspaper reporters to FBI agents, worked to dismantle the power the American Nazis had gained. Pearl Harbor woke up the rest of America to the threat of world wide fascism. It is a testament to our diversity that, once we put aside complacency, we Americans prevailed.

Change scares people, especially

social changes. What should scare you is losing rights. Even more scary is seeing, in yourself, the ability to give your rights away.

All of humanity wants personal freedom and Americans are no exception. Most of us want the freedoms for our fellow Americans that came from the Civil Rights and LGBTQIA Rights Movements. We want what is better for our fellow Americans because discrimination could happen to any of us—losing a right we thought we had. It's happening to American women right now.

Acceptance, and sometimes a hand up, is not a free ride. President Biden's student loan forgiveness is a remedy for predatory interest rates, not free college tuition. Maryland Governor Wes Moore has just pardoned marijuana non violent drug users. Most of the recipients are unable to get jobs due to their criminal record. Now they can get job, pay into our tax base, and support their families. These are practical solutions, implemented by Democrats, solving real problems felt by our fellow Marylanders everyday.

In this generation of political pendulum swings, Democrats are finding solutions for the needs of the many, Republicans cater to the whims of the few. The loudest voices in the Republican party are determined to be angry all the time. All the talk about

uprising, retribution, and revenge threats comes from a portion of the Republican party aimed it everyone else, including some Republicans. Apparently, the entire world is rigged against them. Their accusations are fantastical, but the anger they feel should be taken seriously whether it's rational or not. Maybe especially if it's not rational.

Over the last two centuries what we call the groups at different points of the political spectrum has changed. Up to the 1870s or so, the Democratic Party was pro slavery. Pre Civil War, the Republican Party was formed to create a coalition against slavery. Beginning in the late 19th century the roles slowly reversed between the two major parties. Today the Republican Party pursues control of property over personal rights. The Democratic party balances personal and property rights.

Fourth of July is a celebration of the red white and blue. Do you swell with pride as a Whole American, or as a fractured piece of Old Glory? These are the choices in our time. Each of us has a voice and a vote. We use them to correct our swinging political pendulum.

2024 is the year of the vote. Please make yours count.

To read prior editions of *Good Day Neighbor*, visit the *Authors section* of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).

# THE PASTOR'S DESK

## The first 4th of July celebration

Sue Koenig  
Former Pastor of Graceham  
Moravian Church

Have you ever wondered about the first 4th of July celebration, or what it would have been like to be there? Here is how it all began. Alexander Martin, Governor of North Carolina, signed the following Proclamation on June 18, 1783:

*"Whereas the honorable the General Assembly have by a Resolution of both Houses recommended to appoint the fourth of July next being the anniversary of the declaration of the American Independence, as a Day of Solemn Thanksgiving to Almighty God, for the many most glorious interpositions of his Providence manifested in a great and signal manner in behalf of these United States..."*

*"I have thought proper to issue this Proclamation directing the said 4th of July next be observed as above, hereby strictly commanding and enjoining all the Good Citizens of this State to set apart the said Day from bodily labour; and*

*employ the same in devout and religious exercises... - Given under my hand...the 18th day of June in the year 1783.*  
— Alex. Martin

Only one small community, a Moravian community in Salem, North Carolina is known to have observed July 4, 1783, with a planned celebration. The Moravians, who were pacifists, had suffered during the Revolutionary War for their religiously-grounded refusal to bear arms on either side. They were eager to celebrate the peace, so they read the Proclamation and prepared for the day.

Karl Kroeger, former director of the Moravian Music Foundation, wrote about the first 4th of July celebration in an essay: "The first known official celebration of the Fourth of July ... was not a noisy, patriotic celebration with military parades, fireworks, political speeches and the like. It did not take place in one of the larger cities, such as Philadelphia, New York, or Boston. It did not celebrate the victory of the American forces or even the independence of the country. It was a religious observance in a small, rural settlement in

North Carolina, thanking God for the return of peace to the land."

Brother Kroeger penned his essay in part to highlight a man "who was probably the finest composer in America during his day: Johann Friedrich Peter (1746-1813)." The Moravians held three church services for the July 4th observance. The first, in the morning, included singing accompanied by trombones. The second service included text and music that Brother Peter had prepared for the occasion, Psalm of Joy. The piece was "a cantata-like work with parts for soloists, chorus, orchestra, trombone choir and the congregation.

Everyone was involved, everyone sang, pouring out their feelings of praise and gratitude to God in the final mighty Hallelujah of the last chorale." Finally, in the evening, the trombones led the congregation in a processional through the town, and the day ended with antiphonal singing and a blessing before congregants returned to their homes "with hearts filled with the peace of God." Psalm of Joy was placed in the church records, where it remained for 183 years before being performed for the 200th anniversary celebration of the Founding of Salem in 1966.

I remember another 4th of July – July 4, 1969. That was the year that I was awarded a four-day trip to the City of Philadelphia for winning an essay contest sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary of the Thurmont American Legion Post 168. Before saluting my accomplishment, you should know that eligible competitors were



few in number: you had to be born on the Fourth of July; you had to be turning 14 years old; and you had to live in one of the original 13 colonies! Still, I was delighted when my essay, "What My American Freedoms Mean to Me," was selected. And I didn't receive extra credit for being born in Gettysburg!

With an older relative as a chaperone, I set out for Philadelphia. The two of us stood on the northbound side of Route 15 at Roddy Creek Road and flagged down a Greyhound Bus -- an acceptable practice in those days). Our clothes were packed in brown grocery bags from Super Thrift as neither of us owned a suitcase.

In Philadelphia, I joined the other 12 winners to be presented with the Key to the City. We were treated as distinguished guests at the City's 4th of July celebrations, were invited to read our essays, and watched an amazing fireworks display. After touring the city, we met the popular comedian of that era, Red Skeleton and his wife. I don't remember what I wrote in my essay, but I do recall part of a sen-

tence from one of the other essays: "...a woman is safe to walk on the street." I remain deeply grateful to the women of the Ladies Auxiliary for this opportunity that inspired and enriched my life. I also remember listening to the other essays and thinking, long before I even contemplated becoming a pastor, that the 4th of July was and is about freedom, and that freedom can mean many different things.

This July 4th, we may contemplate what our freedom in Christ means to us. The scriptures on freedom include: Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 2 Cor. 3:17

So if the Son [Christ] sets you free, you will be free indeed.

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

You, my brothers and sisters were called to be free, but do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in this one command: Love your neighbor as yourself. Galatians 5:13-14

The freedom we receive in Christ is freedom from the power of sin and the fear of death. It is also freedom from every other fear. "For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline." (2 Tim. 1:7). This freedom we have received as a gift, like God's love, surpasses all others. For we only know we are completely free when we give our lives freely and completely in love and service to others.

By grace through faith, we are free from all fear so that we are able to stand firm in fulfilling Christ's command to love the neighbor. In Christ we are set free so that we may free others. Christ calls us to stand without fear with our neighbors who suffer injustice, with the poor and the oppressed, with those who are fleeing violence, with those who are sick, hungry and imprisoned. Jesus, quoting the prophet Isaiah, described his own ministry as an anointing to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind, to liberate the oppressed. (Luke 4:18, CEB) This 4th of July, may we pray for a return of peace with justice to our land, and may we celebrate our freedom as Christians with actions that set others free.

*To learn more about Graceham Moravian Church, visit them online at [gracehammoravian.org](http://gracehammoravian.org), or better yet, join them for Sunday service.*

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# THE BOOK OF DAYS

## Dr. John Dalton



July 27

At one of the early meetings of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, it drew out into prominence, and directed great reverence to, an old man from Manchester, who had been, up to that time, but little known to his fellow-citizens. For a long course of years, he had been an obscure teacher of mathematics—he was a Quaker—he was an unobtrusive and, to all outward appearance, an insignificant person. It was now learned, for the first time, by many of the Manchester people, that this quiet little old man enjoyed high esteem in the scientific world, as the originator of a theory of the utmost importance in chemistry, and was indeed one of the great men of his age, living there, as it were, in a disguise framed of his own superabundant modesty.

John Dalton, the son of a Cumberland yeoman, was born at Eaglesfield, near Cockermouth, on the 5th of September 1766. At the age of thirteen, he began to earn his living by teaching, and at twenty-seven he went to Manchester as a lecturer on mathematics. Until pensioned by government in 1833, he gave lessons at eightpence an hour in mathematics. He declined several offers to provide him with a competency, so that he might give his undivided attention to chemistry; asserting 'that teaching was a kind of recreation, and that if richer, he would not probably spend more time in investigation than he was accustomed to do.' He was of course frugal and provident.

The apparatus of his laboratory was of the simplest, and indeed rudest kind; scarcely superior to that of Wollaston, who, on a foreign chemist expressing an anxious desire to see his laboratory, produced a small tray containing some glass tubes, a blow-pipe, two or three watch-glasses, a slip of platina, and a few test-tubes. Dalton was a bachelor, altogether of most quiet and regular habits. Twice each Sunday he took his seat in the Friends' meeting-house, and for forty years he ate his Sunday-dinner at one friend's table.

The afternoon of every Thursday he spent in a bowlines green, assigning as a reason that he liked to take his Saturday in the middle of the week. He was fond of exercise

in the open air, and made an annual excursion among the mountains of Cumberland and Westmoreland. He did not read many books, and was singularly indifferent to all that was written concerning himself. His words were few and truthful.

A student who had missed one lecture of a course, applied to him for a certificate of full attendance. He declined to give it, and then relenting, said: 'If thou wilt come tomorrow, I will go over the lecture thou hast missed.'

Dalton enjoyed robust health; he was middle-sized, and of a figure more sturdy than elegant. His head and face bore a striking resemblance to the portraits of Sir Isaac Newton. Like Newton, he referred his success, not to genius, but to patience and industry. 'These, in my opinion, make one man succeed better than another.'

It is in connection with the Atomic Theory that the name of Dalton promises to go down to posterity. The constitution of matter with respect to divisibility, has been debated from very ancient times. Some hold that its divisibility is infinite, and others, that its reduction is only possible to the extent of atoms. Newton expressed the latter opinion in these words:

'All things considered, it seems probable that God, in the beginning, formed matter in solid, massy, hard, impenetrable, movable particles, of such sizes, figures, and with such other properties, and in such proportion to space, as most conduced to the end for which he formed them; and that these primitive particles, being solids, are incomparably harder than any porous bodies compounded of them; even so very hard as never to wear or break to pieces, no ordinary power being able to divide what God made one in the first creation.'

At this point Dalton took up the question. He began by assuming that matter, although it may in essence be infinitely divisible, is in fact only finitely divided, so that each element consists of particles or molecules of a definite and unchangeable weight, size, and shape. He had observed that in certain chemical compounds the elements united in a constant proportion; for example, water, when decomposed, yields one part by weight of hydrogen, and eight parts by weight of oxygen; and it would be useless to try to combine eleven

parts of oxygen with one part of hydrogen; water would be formed, but three parts of oxygen would be left free as overplus. What is the reason for the maintenance of this combining proportion? asked Dalton.

In his answer, we have the atomic theory, or rather hypothesis.

Taking for granted the existence of atoms, he went on to conceive that in the several elements they vary in weight; atoms of gold from atoms of silver, atoms of iodine from atoms of chlorine; but, on the other hand, that all atoms of the same element are of uniform weight; thus, that any atom of iron is equal to any other atom of iron the world over.

We have observed that water is compounded of eight parts by weight of oxygen to one part by weight of hydrogen, and an explanation of the combination is offered in the supposition, that each atom of oxygen is eight times as heavy as one of hydrogen. Further, it is presumed, that in the union of oxygen with hydrogen, the atoms of each are not interfused, but lie side-by-side, complete in their individuality. If, therefore, the weight of an atom of hydrogen be 1, and an atom of oxygen be 8, it is impossible that their smallest combining proportion, by weight, can be other than 1 and 8. The smallest quantity of water, in this view, must then consist of one atom of hydrogen and one atom of oxygen, bound together in that mystic tie which we term chemical affinity.

The example we have chosen from the constitution of water is a simple illustration of the constant proportion which exists throughout chemical compounds with infinite, complex, and multiple variations. It was in 1803 that the great cosmic idea entered Dalton's mind. In 1804, he explained it in conversation to Dr. Thomas

Thomson of Glasgow, who, in 1807, gave a short sketch of the hypothesis in the third edition of his System of Chemistry. The asserted law of combination in constant proportions was quickly tested in a multitude of experiments, and the facts clustered to its confirmation.

It was discovered that there was as little chance or haphazard in the concourse of atoms as in the motions of planets. The hypothesis gave a prodigious impulse to the science of chemistry; it shot light through all its realms, and reduced a chaos of observations to purpose and system. Before Dalton's happy conception there was not a single analysis which could be trusted as correct, or a single gas whose specific gravity was known with accuracy.

In the arts, his service was beyond value. He gave the manufacturing chemist a rule whereby he could preclude waste, teaching him how to effect combinations without the loss of an ounce of material. Even supposing that in the future Dalton's notion of the coacervation of infinitesimal atoms should prove erroneous, his merit will remain untouched; for that properly consists in the discovery and promulgation of the law of constant proportion in chemical unions, where before law was unknown, or at any rate only dimly surmised. The theory of atoms was merely an attempt to reveal the mystery of the law, which will abide, whatever may be the fate of the theory.

Dalton was almost insensible to differences in colours. Whereas most persons see seven colours in the rainbow, he saw only two—yellow and blue; or at most, three—yellow, blue, and purple. He saw no difference between red and green, so that he thought 'the face of a laurel-leaf a good match to a stick of red sealing-wax; and the back of the leaf to the lighter red

of wafers.' When, at Oxford, Dr. Whewell asked him what he would compare his scarlet doctor's gown to, he pointed to the leaves of the trees around them.

When a young man, 31st October 1794, he read a paper before the Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society, entitled Extraordinary Facts Relating to the Vision, of Colours, drawing attention to his own deficiency, which thenceforth became known under the name of Daltonism. Colour-blindness is by no means an uncommon affection. Dalton was acquainted with nearly twenty people in his own case. Dugald Stewart, the metaphysician, was one of them: he could not distinguish the crimson fruit of the Siberian crab from the leaves of the tree on which it grew otherwise than by the difference in form. Dalton tried to account for his peculiarity by supposing that it arose from the vitreous humour of his eyes having a blue tint instead of being colourless like water; as in the majority of man-kind.

After his death, in obedience to his instructions, his eyes were dissected; but no peculiarity could be detected. The true explanation of colour-blindness is, we apprehend, a phrenological one—namely, that in persons insensible to colours there is a deficiency or mal-organisation in that portion of the brain which receives impressions of colour; just as there are some similarly deficient in the sense of tune, and who cannot distinguish between one piece of music and another. In one thus insensible to melody, we do not assume any defect in his ears, but a deficiency in that part of his brain assigned to the organ of tune.

To read other selections from Robert Chambers's 1864 *The Book of Days*, visit [thebookofdays.com](http://thebookofdays.com).


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## ECOLOGY

# Finding feathers

Anne Gageby  
Director of Environmental Education  
Strawberry Hill Foundation

“Can I have an owl feather?” This question has come up numerous times in a variety of situations involving our barred owl, *Strix*. The question is usually asked during an Animal Ambassador program when we discuss the unique properties of barred owl feathers. Or when someone spots a feather or two in his enclosure and enquires about it later. It’s an innocent question outlined with sincere appreciation for a beloved animal. After all, who doesn’t love owls? And their feathers are incredibly beautiful. Unfortunately, the answer to the question of finding and keeping feathers is a hard “no”. It’s illegal to collect owl feathers, even ones *Strix* has shed naturally.

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 prohibits the taking of wild bird species without prior authorization by the Department of Interior U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The word “taking” includes the killing, capturing, trading, selling, collecting, and transporting of all parts of the bird including feathers, their nests, and eggs. The list of protected birds includes over 1,000 species of native migratory birds including songbirds, as well as non-migratory birds such as eagles, hawks, and chickadees along with many, many more. And, of course, our beloved owls.

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act is one of our country’s oldest environmental laws and came about after years of effort by environmentalists and other early conservationists including the Audubon Society. It’s easy to look at a law from a hundred years ago and misunderstand why and how it should apply today. After all, life was very different back then and we’re just collecting pretty feathers today. No harm in that, right?

It’s not that simple. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act came about because of years of exploitation and unregulated hunting practices that lead to the extinction of species such as the passenger pigeon and near-extinction of others such as the snowy egret which was primarily hunted for its extraordinary feathers. These feathers were used in hats and other fashionable decorations as were the plumes of many bird species in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. An estimated 200 million wild birds were killed each year to support the millinery trade’s demands. The most hunted species’ populations declined rapidly. Fortunately, hunters, conservationists, and bird enthusiasts banded together to help put an end to the unlimited slaughter.

It was the saving grace for some species but not all. The now extinct passenger pigeon was once the most abundant bird in North America, comprising between 25 and 40 percent of the total

bird population. Estimates say the birds numbered somewhere between three and five billion. Yes, billion. To put that in perspective, the North American wolf population hovered around one million before predator eradication programs reduced their numbers to a few thousand.

The passenger pigeon was a hypersocial bird that roosted in tightly packed flocks large enough to break tree limbs when perching. They were known to even stand on one another’s backs if there was no remaining space on a limb. Migrating flocks could cover miles and block out sunlight for hours at a time. They could also do extensive damage to crops. Passenger pigeons were generalist eaters which fed on a wide variety of nuts, seeds, and insects. As deforestation began to impact flocks’ living conditions, they turned to easily accessible field crops to supply their massive consumption needs. A farmer’s field could be destroyed within an incredibly short period of time as a flock of pigeons stopped for a bite to eat.

It wasn’t just pigeons looking for an easy meal, though. Because of their roosting habits and massive flocks, passenger pigeons became known as a poor man’s staple. A hunter could easily bag enough pigeons to feed his family with minimal effort. By the 1850s the market for pigeon meat had boomed as it was cheap and accessible to just about everyone. And the birds seemed to be in endless supply. Unfortunately, reality hit around the time of the Civil War. People began noticing a marked decrease in pigeon numbers and by the 1890s the passenger pigeon had almost completely disappeared. The last captive passenger pigeon died in 1914.

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act couldn’t save the passenger pigeon, but it did save millions of other birds and continues to



**Strix is a barred owl who enjoys mice and “talking” to other owls behind our office. His favorite thing about being a Strawberry Hill Animal Ambassador is teaching kids about his eyesight. Strix has 3-D, or “binocular” vision, similar to humans!**

do so. Over the years, it has been amended and updated to include Canada, Mexico, Japan, and Russia to ensure the sustainability of all protected bird species. Which brings us to today. It’s easy to look around our backyards and forests and see cardinals, blue jays, mourning doves, and many more. Birds seem to be everywhere. I’ve even seen great blue herons hanging out by our pond at Strawberry Hill. But that wasn’t always the case and it’s because of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act that populations have been able to rebound and thrive.

Not all birds are protected, however. House sparrows, European starlings, and rock pigeons are all non-native species and tend to be disruptive to their environments. Most wild game birds are also not protected by the treaty though hunting regulations do exist for birds such as turkeys, ducks, geese, doves, and many shorebirds.

Owls like *Strix* are protected and highly regulated. As an educational institution we are required to have specific licenses to house and maintain him. And another license to collect his feathers. It’s a lot of processes and an honor to be able to work with such an incredible animal.

Fortunately, barred owls are thriving in our woods today as are many other bird species. I look back at my great-great-grandparents’ time and wonder what it would be like to stand where Strawberry Hill is now and see vast swaths of farms and fields. By the turn of the 20th century, these spaces must have felt so empty without roaming wildlife and fewer birds returning every year. We live in a completely different world today and I’m grateful for it. I get to experience the fruits of early conservationists’ labors. All I have to do is walk outside to see the herons perching by our pond, the songbirds calling outside my office window. It’s remarkable how far we’ve come. And the road to ecological recovery really doesn’t have an ending but it does start here, one feather at a time.

*To read past editions of Ecology, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.*

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# IN THE COUNTRY

## A journey of a lifetime

Tim Iverson

I am probably about to ruffle some feathers, so let's get started. I'd like to do away with the Leave No Trace dogma. If you're an outdoor enthusiast or environmentalist I've probably just made you an enemy, but first hear me out. I'm not trying to throw the baby out with the bath water, but I think there is a better and more sensible way to introduce environmental stewardship than this one size fits all approach to the outdoors. Fostering an appreciation and love for the outdoors is what will turn the next generation of kids and eventually voters into passionate users and activists for the environment and public lands.

I've touched on Leave No Trace in several of my past articles, and before I move forward this argument I'd like to state that I think it's a great idea in principle. If you've forgotten what Leave No Trace is then let me take a moment to reintroduce it. Leave No Trace is a non-profit organization and a set of principles or ethics regarding how we use and treat the great outdoors. These seven ideas are easy to follow and very reasonable. They are:

- Plan Ahead & Prepare
- Travel/Camp on Durable Surfaces
- Dispose of Waste Properly
- Leave What You Find
- Minimize Campfire Impacts
- Respect Wildlife
- Be Considerate of Other Visitors

Leave No Trace can usually be summed up by the adage, "Take only pictures, leave only footprints." Any good skeptic (which I generally like to think I am, but sometimes I'm skeptical of even that) will tell you that you should always question everything. Period. From my experience as a professional in the realm of outdoor recreation and environmental education this outdoor dogma can come as bit off-putting.

I recently read an article about a former North Carolina State

Park Ranger, Matt Browning. As in Maryland State Parks or any National Park it is illegal to collect anything – flowers, leaves, rocks, dirt, etc. He recalls witnessing another ranger talk with a child caught with a handful of rocks, "It made me sick. The boy was crestfallen. He was so excited about coming to the park that he wanted to take a little memento back with him. More than feeling empowered or excited to protect the natural world, now he is going to associate going to state parks with getting into trouble." It caused him to reflect on the experience and the notion behind the interaction. He continues, "What kids were taking was gravel and weedy yarrow. They were not rare, delicate pink lady slippers." State and National Parks and Leave No Trace generally advocate not to explore, to keep voices low, not to leave the trail, not to climb on trees or rocks, and what seems like not to have any fun. This former Ranger advocates a new approach, and I think there is something to it.

Browning, who is now a graduate student studying recreational use of natural areas at Virginia Tech, heard about these "Nature Play Areas." These are areas, in Europe, that have been specifically set aside to let kids be kids in the woods. They encourage them to play around and in general just get dirty, explore, and fool around in nature. He studied these areas and the kids who use them to see if there was really any harm done to the areas. His data showed that yes, there is an impact on the ecosystem tree limbs are broken, soil is compacted, and trails are made. However, these are still viable and functioning ecosystems. One interaction he describes with a child at one of these natural play areas is a poignant to the argument. He notices a child carving a stick with a knife and asked him if he would stick a living tree with the knife. The child's response was "No! It would hurt the tree; it would hurt the tree just like it would hurt me."

Browning's argument is that this is the exact ethical and emo-



Don't let summer be a bore! Help inspire your children's natural creativity with these fun country-style summer activities.

tional component that we try to foster through Leave No Trace. However, it isn't introduced through rules or ethical regimens. It's a natural and personal relationship that has created that empathy and stewardship. Richard Louv, a well respected author in the environmental advocacy world, has more to say on this subject.

In his book, Last Child in the Woods, Louv describes what he calls "Nature Deficit Disorder." He links research on a lack of time spent in nature to childhood obesity, depression, and attention deficit disorder. He argues that it is necessary for the physical and emotional well-being of children and adults to directly experience their natural world. Many of today's adults grew up with unstructured outdoor time playing in fields and woods. Today's youth are sheltered indoors and seated in front of screens. Without this vital component a host of maladies can arise and have due to this new indoor epidemic. Maryland is already well underway to combating this.

The alternative is about becoming educated and actually experiencing our natural environment that will instill a passion and a sense of wonder in people. The environmental literacy compo-

nent to high school graduation requirements. It focuses primarily on the Chesapeake Bay, natural resource management, smart growth, and conservation. In 2009 the governor even introduced an outdoor bill of rights. It pledges that every Marylander will be able to:

- Discover & Connect with their natural world
- Play and Learn Outdoors
- Splash and swim in the water
- Camp under the stars
- Follow a trail
- Catch a fish
- Watch wildlife
- Explore wild places close to home
- Celebrate their culture and heritage
- Share nature with a great mentor or teacher

These 10 ideas or promises are entitled to everyone so that the next generation will be as committed to an environmental and personal wellbeing as the last.

By simply allowing for these unfettered experiences to occur we can hopefully instill a new generation of recreational users and caretakers. Simple ideas for engaging children are to utilize Junior Ranger programs at state and national parks, volunteering with outdoor organizations, getting involved with outdoor adventure activities (whether your idea of adventure being rock climbing, white water rafting, canoeing, birding, hiking, or sitting under a tree and reading), for parks to create areas or post signs of invasives or common plants that it would be okay to collect, and the list can go on from there. The hard part is just getting out there. It can last your whole life, but once you step foot and cross that initial threshold your journey has begun and can only take you to wondrous places.

To read other articles by Tim Iverson, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

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## SCIENCE MATTERS

## Does “chemical man” follow chemical ethics?

Boyce Rensberger

Last month I introduced you to Jacques Loeb, the researcher at the turn of the last century who, more than anyone else, turned biology into an experimental science. People said he was trying to create life in his laboratory by doing various chemical experiments. In a way, he was. Loeb believed that living organisms were nothing more than combinations of molecules that reacted with one another in specific ways. The total combination of the many ways amounted to life itself without benefit of anything supernatural.

What impressed me about that episode more than a century ago was the public reaction. It seems that most people welcomed it and had no problem buying into Loeb's view that life is molecules reacting with one another. That was evident in newspaper and magazine coverage, and even let-

ters to the editor. There was very little of the “playing God” allegation that we hear nowadays when, for example, American scientists put human genes in pigs or, more surprisingly, when Chinese scientists created genetically engineered human babies. Designer babies, critics call them. Both of those events are real, as you may have read.

Religious objections have been prominent. Roman Catholic popes have issued encyclicals warning that altering the genomes of human beings amounts to playing God. Pope John Paul II called it an “attack on the dignity of the human being.” More recently Pope Francis condemned the “technological paradigm” and “indiscriminate genetic manipulation” of human life.

As for Protestants, there is the Southern Baptist Convention in its 2023 Resolution on Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies, saying “no innovation

or emerging technology will ever be able to usurp the sovereignty and power of God.”

By contrast, when Loeb's experiments came to public view, they were welcomed as steps toward “creating life in a test tube.”

The *Chicago Tribune* story even explained in great detail Loeb's experimental procedures. It cited several of his other experiments. In one, for example, Loeb had removed a frog's leg muscle and chemically treated it in a dish, eventually causing it to beat rhythmically like a heart muscle—a very different kind of muscle and behavior from that of the leg. To Loeb, that proved that the behavior of a whole tissue, like that of the cells that make up the tissue, was controlled by chemistry.

“Step by step,” the newspaper concludes, “the scientists of Woods Holl [an older spelling] are learning from the marine animals causes of the phenomena in the bodies of mankind.” The story said that the outcomes of Loeb's research “will revolutionize theories of life held even by eminent students of natural science up to the present day” and that other scientists are saying “that when the chemical theory of life is definitely formulated, as they believe it soon will be, it will startle the world as it has not been startled since Darwin made public his theory of natural evolution.”

To generalize from simple experiments on single cells to whole, complex animals seems ridiculous today, but in that time more than a century ago, Loeb commanded such amazement, optimism and acceptance that his findings were deemed newsworthy many times over many years. And, of course, it was subjected to the hype common in journalism of those days. “Eternal life,” as some newspapers called it, was within the power of science to confer on living things, perhaps



Ivan Pavlov (beard), the Russian scientist who studied conditioned responses in dogs, with Jacques Loeb (right) in 1923 at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Mass.

even on human beings.

Even Mark Twain, who was fascinated with science, wrote an essay titled “Dr. Loeb's Incredible Discovery,” with a plea to remain open to new scientific advances.

To be sure, a few people did compare Loeb to Dr. Frankenstein. And some editorial writers ridiculed him for presuming to reduce to scientific terms anything as obviously miraculous as life. But more than one religious leader resigned himself to the belief that while Loeb might be right and science might one day be able to create a “chemical man,” it would not count for much because it would lack a soul.

As an anonymous essayist put it in the *Philadelphia Public Ledger* in 1912, “[I]t is not quite plain how the biologists and organic chemists of 100,000,000 AD are going to import a soul into their man after they have successfully usurped the creative role and breathed the breath of life into their protoplasmic amalgamation. ... The question is can you have a man when you have produced a physical organism destitute of the primal distinction between the man and the brute.”

In other words, even Loeb's critics conceded that it might be pos-

sible not only to create life in a test tube, but eventually to create what they called a chemical man. They didn't object to that; what they objected to was the idea that a chemical man would lack something supernatural—a soul.

What many commentators missed was Loeb's implicit assertion that he himself was a chemical man and that all humans are chemical beings.

Eventually Loeb even addressed the question of how chemical human beings—not ones created in the future, but human beings today—could have ethics. The ability to tell right from wrong, he said, was not originally taught by religious leaders repeating the words of a supreme being but, instead, had evolved in the human brain as surely as a green plant's inborn drive to reach for the sun.

“Our instincts,” Loeb wrote in his seminal 1912 book *The Mechanistic Conception of Life*, “are the root of our ethics and ... the instincts are just as hereditary as is the form of our body. We eat, drink and reproduce not because mankind has reached an agreement that this is desirable, but because, machine-like, we are compelled to do so ... by processes in our central nervous system. ... Not only is the mechanistic conception of life compatible with ethics: it seems the only conception of life which can lead to an understanding of the source of ethics.”

A moral compass, Loeb believed, was an inherited web of instincts as important to the survival of the human species as a robin's instinct to migrate south for the winter or an oriole's to weave a hanging nest. Though Loeb's views gained acceptance among many intellectuals of his day, they eventually faded from prominence only to be reasserted generations later in today's “new” field of evolutionary psychology.

Boyce Rensberger retired to Frederick County after more than 40 years as a science writer, mostly for *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*. Write to him at [boycerensberger@gmail.com](mailto:boycerensberger@gmail.com).

To read other articles by Boyce Rensberger, visit the Authors section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).

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# THE VILLAGE IDIOT

## Grownin' seniler

Jack Deatherage

There have been moments, rare and brief, when I see things clearly. The clarity comes after months, sometimes years of observation. Observations I'm not aware of for the most part. However, when I can count the aunts, uncles and cousins older than me - without using all my fingers - I begin paying attention. Toss in the occasional attempt to put the milk jug in the microwave instead of the fridge, forgetting where I'm going not a minute after leaving the house, typing the word "flatteringly" when I know damned well I typed "lantern-fly", having to constantly remind myself to stop at stop signs and for red lights as if I'd just smoked a joint (which I haven't done in forty years), and I realize it's time for a drastic lifestyle change.

While observations tend to pile up without my understanding their significance it's usually some mundane incident that causes them to coalesce of a sudden. The latest catalyst was having to renew my driver's license online.

Now the last time I renewed my license I was just shy of 62 years old and I drove to the Frederick MVA thinking as long as I could make that trip without incident I was still fit to drive. I remember the woman who renewed the license remarking, "You are good until you are seventy." I allowed I'd not be fit to drive by then. She smiled and said, "Oh, you will be fine."

I wasn't fine then, I'd only just begun swallowing ginkgo biloba capsules in an attempt to get my brain functioning close to normal again, whatever normal is. I'm not fine now. I recently drove First Sister to the MVA to swap her South Carolina license for a Maryland one. While I made the trek without incident I also had the DW along. The women kept me focused on the task. I'm not sure things would have gone as smoothly had they not been with me.

Back to the online renewal. It took me three tries just to setup an account. The site timed out on me twice. I don't think I've ever used a government website that didn't inspire creative cursing and swearing as well as elaborate fantasies of overthrowing local, county, state, federal and

world governments.

Having finally met the site's log in requirements I happily (twas a deranged sort of happy accompanied by an insane giggle) moved on to license renewal and eventually reached the part where I had to tell the site where I lived. And that was the end of that. Evidently I don't live where my license says I live.

Several permutations of my address kept getting the same response - I had to provide a verified address. Of course I didn't know what that meant and foolishly tried the site's AI chatbot.

Now I'm pondering which is more useless, my deteriorating organic brain or the AI's microchips. The chatbot did suggest I call some MVA number where I'd likely end up pushing phone buttons in a vain attempt to reach a human who might or might not be of anymore use than the chatbot. While pondering that suggestion I considered making an appointment with Doc for suggestions on how to slow the brain drain.

Eventually I said, "To Hell with it. First Sister can drive."

Eh - hem. First Sister is not pleased. The DW is even less so. Both admit they've been noticing my increasing lack of focus while I'm behind the wheel.

Loss of focus is most obvious to me when I approach the traffic light at the Square and notice the neon blue tattoo sign is lit. I wonder if Tattoo Don, pillar of the community, is at his light box sketching a new design, or if Tattoo Rae has a buzzing machine in hand as she deftly colors between the lines on virgin skin. Perhaps the new apprentice is painstakingly recreating the shop's collection of tattoo flash via spit shading?

If I've managed not to run a red light, I'm sometimes surprised by a horn letting me know the light has changed.

I've lost count of the times the DW has asked me where I'm going when we leave home headed to Thurmont and I turn at the light toward Fairfield. She's been telling herself for years that I seldom take the shortest route to anywhere, but even she can't ignore that I'm obviously forgetting where I'm going more frequently now.

It's time to pass the keys before my wandering mind misses something that gets someone killed. I much prefer being a passenger able to ponder views that pass by the windows while the driver is focused on arriving intact.

I am hoping I've enough cognitive ability left to build the Cedar Avenue Community Garden into the show piece I promised the town's elect. Along that same line I've a few other projects I hope to outline and present to the people who can make them a reality before they, my thoughts, go fluttering off - lost amongst the laughing gods' thundering guffaws.

This place has more potential than it does people who are willing to take advantage of the possibilities. Though that may be changing now that I'm seeing the Roman Catholics (RCs) out and about reintroducing themselves to our community as they recently processioned, signing hymns and praying, from Saint Joseph's church to the Mount and Saint Anthony's Shrine. Pagan though I be, it warmed my heart to see a group of priests, nuns, seminarians and lay people pass our house as they prayed their rosary. If the RCs are the spark that renews this place I'll cheer them on!

Wait! Is that laughter rumbling out of the past?

Of course it is. My pagan mentors told me more than a decade ago that it would be the RCs I should turn to if I wanted to accomplish any of the goals I then



had rattlin' 'round in my skull. I guess I'm not surprised that an RC stepped up and stuck a fork in the farmers market lot when the Town Council gave me permission to build a community garden on the lot's end. He and I have since spent hours arguing the various merits of gardening methods, life experiences and philosophies.

Nor should I have been surprised when another RC donated a rototiller to the project, or a former RC donated straw bales and yet another former RC showed up to offer valuable advice on how to improve the garden soils. (The former RCs are still believers, just no longer RCs.)

Beyond the community garden, way beyond my ability to create it, is a Wounded Warrior event

that would require the cooperation of the Daughters of Charity, the National Museum of Civil War Medicine, whatever group or groups are currently holding the Gettysburg reenactments each summer and the various state and county tourism offices. Getting sculptor Gary Casteel involved in that project seems a no-brainer as he's got a plan for a National Civil War monument ready to draw tourists to this place.

In the midst of all my pondering, lost in the ideas, niggles a thought - Am I already too senile to do more than water the garden?

To read past editions of *The Village Idiot*, visit the Authors section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).

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# THE MASTER GARDENER

## Summer perennials

Mary Ann Ryan  
Adams County Master Gardener

Summer is my favorite time for perennials. Winter is spent planning, spring is spent planting, and summer, oh the summer, is spent drinking lemonade and enjoying the flowers! Actually, let's not romanticize. Many perennials certainly do show their pretty faces, though, during the hot month of July. Lemonade is needed to quench the thirst from weeding the garden in this sticky weather. Yes, there is still lots of work in the summer when you're a gardener. Here are some perennials you may want to try for summer blooming to make it all worthwhile:

*Heliopsis helianthoides* – false sunflower. It's a beautiful yellow, daisy-like flower growing to about 3 ft. It blooms in mid July and loves full sun. The foliage is a nice green color, and the leaves are rounded. It's a great plant to use in the background of a garden.

*Monarda didyma* 'Pink Delight' – pink bee balm. This particular bee balm is resistant to powdery mildew. It is a shorter variety, remaining more compact than other varieties. It's bright pink and, like other bee balm, the hummingbirds

love it! This plant grows best in full sun and growing to about 18-24 in. It blooms in July and is good to use in the middle of the garden.

Another favorite variety is 'Jacob's Cline'. This one reaches up to 4' tall, maybe even a bit taller if it's really happy. It has dark red flowers and is known to be mildew resistant.

When stopping by my favorite garden center recently, I was drawn to a new series of monarda called Sugar Buzz®. The variety that I was drawn to was Bubblegum Blast®. Although I do not have experience with this series, here are the details: Sugar Buzz® series get about 18"-24" tall and are mildew resistant. They are very bright, almost neon, in color. Shades of pink and lavender are the colors I saw. I have planted Bubblegum Buzz in my garden this summer. This series was developed by Walters Gardens.

Another *Monarda* that does fantastic for me is *Monarda fistulosa*, also known as bergamot. This plant has lavender colored flowers and gets anywhere from 2' – 5' tall, depending on light and water. They do pretty well in dry locations (although occasional watering is needed), and moist locations. Full sun is the preferred, however I have them in morning sun and

they still bloom and do well.

*Monarda* is in the mint family. In some gardens, it spreads and will need thinned out. In others, like mine, the clumps get bigger, but they don't become aggressive. The bergamot has re-seeded in my gardens, but I'm good with it. Depending on how you use these plants in your garden, consider those potential issues.

*Echinacea purpurea* 'White Swan' – White coneflower. This wonderful bright white flower is blooming now and like the pink coneflower, the petals hang from the center of the flower. It prefers full sun but will tolerate a little bit of morning shade. The neat thing about the white variety is that in the evening, it almost appears to glow. If you want to develop an evening garden, this would be a terrific choice.

Although many different varieties of *Echinacea* are available, I am drawn to the tried and true – *Echinacea purpurea*. The crosses don't seem to overwinter for me, but the regular *echinacea* does well when there is no other plant competition.

*Coreopsis* in general, likes full sun and well drained soils. They are commonly called "tickseed" and typically are yellow in color, although there are some cultivars that are shades of pink. This plant genus is an easy-to-grow group. A few that I like: *Coreopsis grandiflora* has yellow, daisy like flowers on long stems. They produce nice, rounded plants with flowers that stretch above the leaves. Some varieties of this species have darker centers, like 'Rising Sun', adding a bit of extra color to the perennial display. Most in this species have large yellow flowers, and bloom June through August, if the spent flowers are clipped. It will grow



'White Swan' Coneflower glows in the evening.

to about 18" high and prefers a sunny location. The butterflies are attracted to it and it mixes well with coral bells and other spike-like plants.

Another easy to grow coreopsis is the species "verticillata". These are the threadleaf type plants, that bloom earlier than the grandiflora, typically in June. They become covered in small golden-yellow flowers and are mound shaped. A common variety is 'Zagreb', and probably my favorite verticillata variety.

*Coreopsis tripteris* is a very tall species, reaching 6 feet. It has tiny yellow flowers, blooming in July – August. Like most coreopsis, full sun and well drained soil is its preference. It's a great plant for the back of the garden, giving a dainty texture and flower to a very tall plant.

*Phlox paniculata* gives great summer color. Generally, the garden phlox like a full day of sun, good air circulation, and well-drained soil. Depending on the variety, they get 2' – 5' tall with many colors to choose from: reds, purples, pinks and

whites. These plants will flower in July and sometimes through August. One of my favorites is call 'Jena'. This variety has smaller individual flowers than most, but the flower panicles are a nice size and are fuchsia in color. What I like about this one is it is a prolific bloomer, and many bees, butterflies and hummingbirds will visit it.

'Robert Poore' is a dark pink/light purple flower, that has great mildew resistance. It is one of the taller varieties, easily reaching 4'. The flower panicles are large and quite showy, with many critters visiting them.

'Fashionably Early Crystal' and a nice white, shorter garden phlox that is also mildew resistant. One I have been growing in my garden for a few years, it doesn't disappoint. Most plant resources say full sun, but mine is growing quite well in just afternoon sun. It has a bright presence in an evening garden, with its white flowers. It begins blooming in mid – late May and keeps flowering until mid – late June and is about 18" tall.

All of the plants listed here are native to PA. But yarrow, another great summer blooming plant, is considered naturalized to PA by most references, although some references list *Yarrow millifolium* as a native. Most agree that yarrow came over with the early colonist as an herb used for medicinal purposes. Either way, several species of yarrow have made it to my garden.

There are many varieties of this plant as well as different species, and a few of my favorite are 'Paprika', a reddish-pink flower, 'Moonshine', an old yellow variety but a great one non-the-less, and 'Peter Cottontail',

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# THE MASTER GARDENER



Phlox 'Robert Poore' is mildew resistant and quite showy.

a new one for me with white flowers that are farther apart and resemble baby's breath. I'm anxious to see how this one does in my garden.

All the yarrows are happiest in well-drained to drier soils, once established, and are great cut flowers, that dry well for an everlasting bouquet or dried wreath. Full sun is needed for this plant to perform

it's best. In my garden, this perennial starts blooming in early June. If I keep it deadheaded, it continues to push flowers almost through August!

Give some of these plants a try, and your summer garden will be alive with color!

To read other gardening articles, visit the Gardening section of Emmitsburg.net.

## Small Town Gardener

Canna puts the 'I can' back into summer

Marianne Willburn

There are few persons more strident as those who have once loved a thing only to turn their backs upon it, unless of course it is those who have hated, and now love with equal fervor. In time, both groups will suffer the well-deserved jabs of those who knew them before their evangelization, but such is the price we pay for strict ideologies.

And such have been my dealings with Canna – the lily that is not a lily, the tropical that finds itself in temperate gardens more often than not.

If you are not familiar with canna lilies – or continue to confuse them with the soft half-cones and wedding flower fodder of callas (*Zantedeschia*), let me be the first to start the process of proselytization.

Cannas are a New World plant. Many of them have been cultivated in the Old World and in Africa and Asia for a couple of hundred years, but they were originally imported there from the East Indies and the southern

part of the United States. Thus, hybrids such as 'Bengal Tiger' push the provenance envelope a little bit and impart the mystique of far eastern climes when the reality is much closer to home.

Cannas are rhizomatic – which means that at the end of a good growing season, where you once had one, you might now have several. These rhizomes are eaten in many parts of the world as they have an extremely high starch content and high yield.

When grown as a garden plant however, they are primarily grown for their foliage, which can drift from the horticultural definition of 'black' to the plainest of greens, with drifts in recent years into more tropical reddish yellows as seen in the Tesselar flagship canna 'Tropicanna' (aka Phaison). Flowers are just as tropical as the foliage and can persist late into the season, besting a first frost or two.

All this did not make them any more appealing to me – for the simple reason that in my 7a climate, they had to be dug in the autumn, and the only objects for which I was willing to go to such lengths were black truffles.

Over the years I have had many

opportunities to receive end of season plants from other gardeners or \$2.00 death rack specimens. I declined. There is very little less appealing than a canna that has spent a hot summer in a one gallon pot, and I wanted nothing to do with it.

Then, on a trip to Charlottesville to visit the garden of a good friend, I was introduced to the hybrid 'Bengal Tiger' (aka 'Pretoria'). I took a second glance. My friend sent some home. That was the game changer.

'Bengal Tiger' is the very essence of foliage variegation. No vague mottling here, or marginated color that fades in less than four hours of sun. No - this is bright, green and gold striation that can make a dreary corner come alive, excite a sedate water feature and push a humdrum container into the realm of 'above average.' If that weren't enough, flaming orange blooms complement and enhance the foliage by mid-season. Result: tropical mojo so intense you'll be inspired to mix rum punch by the pitcher and crank up the samba. You may even take up cigar smoking.

Hyperbole aside, it's a great plant. And as over-wintering goes, turns out it could not be easier. Simply lift the rhizomes, inspect for any signs of rot and cut those bits off, then store in the cellar, basement, garage, or any other out of the way space that doesn't dip below freezing. In a garbage bag.

Yes you read that right.

Early in the season (March/April) I put each rhizome with a healthy bud in individual gallon pots with potting soil and a granular fertilizer and stick them in a cold frame. Canna are heat lovers and won't do much till temperatures pick up, but this gives them a little head start. Since my evangelization, I have now found a soft spot for the plain, red-flowered species, *Canna indica*, and am incredibly impressed with the architectural statement it makes in a repetitive planting scheme.

It's hot. Tropics like canna respond to that heat and ask for more. You can't ask for better in July, and when it comes to unceremoniously storing them without care or worry, you can't ask for better in October.

Marianne is the author of *Tropical Plants and How To Love Them*, and *Big Dreams, Small Garden*. She gardens from her home in Lovettsville, VA.

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### Frederick County Master Gardeners July Seminars

**July 13:** "A Walk in The Garden - Pollinator Garden Basics" Learn the 4 elements that are essential to creating a garden that attracts and sustains pollinators year-round. We will offer advice on building your own pollinator-friendly habitat, including lists of plants.

**July 20:** "Container Gardening" Even in the limited space of a deck, porch, patio, or balcony, you can create your own garden oasis! See how to grow vegetables, herbs, small fruits, and decorative plants in a variety of containers. Learn how to select the proper plants for different size contain-

ers, to group plants by their needs, and to elevate containers to provide easy access without stooping and bending.

All seminars are free unless otherwise stated. Seminars are held at the University of Maryland Extension office at 330 Montevue Lane, (off Rosemont Avenue) in Frederick, from 10 to noon.

*For more information and sign-up links, visit the Events section of the Master Gardeners Frederick County website or call the extension office at 301-600-1595.*



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# PETS

## Living with a three-legged cat

Jennifer Vanderau

You know the strangest thing about living with a three-legged cat?

The guilt you feel for doing it.

A few weeks ago I wrote about my baby Loki having cancer. He's a 7-year-old black cat who came to me as a little kitten. The cancer was in his back left leg and it was amputated up to the hip.

I'm pretty sure they got it all because his chest x-ray was good and his heart and lungs sounded good, too.

He's hopping around the house and eating and drinking and using the bathroom and I'm still... a nervous wreck.

I know I need to enjoy every day with him and I do. It's just I feel like I'm constantly looking for new lumps on him and when he hobbles up on the bed on his three legs, part of me feels guilty.

My acupuncturist told me I actually removed cancer from his body. I shouldn't feel guilty, but.

But.

See Loki has always been my trouble maker. He gets into literally everything and would jump just about everywhere. I don't know, there's just something when I watch him hop along that makes me think, oh, man. He can't jump like he used to. He can't get up on the bathroom sink and drink from the faucet like he used to (he's instead using the faucet in the tub).

And yes, amputation really was the best option for him because that lump

was the size of a ping pong ball on his knee, so I really do logically know it was for the best...but.

But.

Why do I still feel guilty?

It's crazy, right? I mean, I wholeheartedly admit I have a number of issues, so I know I operate more than 15 degrees off center on a normal day, but this might be a bit over the top, right?

Realistically and practically, I did the only thing I could. I got rid of the cancer and hopefully prolonged his life for many additional years.

I still just feel so bad when he hops up to me.

As I'm typing this stream of consciousness column right now I'm starting to realize that maybe my real issue with all of this is I just wish it hadn't happened. I wish he hadn't gotten cancer and I had to take these drastic steps.

That's very childlike, though. Wanting to rail at fate or circumstances that life hands you. I'm reminded of a toddler throwing a fit because he or she couldn't get the yummy dessert or something.

And I'm not proud that I find myself in that exact situation.

Is that where the guilt is coming from? Is it really just a wish that my boy didn't have to go through this?

It kills me to think he might still be in pain. My acupuncturist told me of course he's in pain. He had muscles and nerves and bones cut away. She said pain is part of life.

I remember telling her, but I don't want that for my Loki - right before I burst into tears in her office.

She said this was his path, his journey and asked me to consider what I could learn from him.

I think maybe I've always looked at our four-legged friends as pure and the best of us. They are so trusting and they offer unconditional love and they are there for us often when humans aren't or can't be.

As a result, I think they should have the best of everything. They should have soft beds and good food and water to drink and fun toys to play with...and they shouldn't hurt or have to suffer.

That might be what this is all about. I haven't really, truly dealt with the fact that I can't protect my babies from everything. I can't be absolutely certain that they will never be hurt or know pain.

On the night I really cried about Loki - the ugly crying I described a few weeks ago - I got kind of scared. Because it was really, really bad crying. Like from deep in my gut. I know I was crying for a whole lot of things that night and Loki was just the catalyst, but it freaked me out.

That might be what I really don't want to look at. That might be why I can't seem to come to terms with what's going on with my boy.

I just want him to be happy and loved and pain free.

He shouldn't have to hurt like I do sometimes.

Whew. I did not know where this one was going to go this week, but wow. Okay. Maybe I need to work through some of my own stuff so I can see what Loki and this diagnosis is really trying to teach me.

For tonight, though, I'm going to go home to my boy and see if he'd like to cuddle a little and I'll take solace in the fact that he's still around to be with me.

*Jennifer Vanderau is the Publications and Promotions Consultant for the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter, and can be reached at [cvascomm@cvas-pets.org](mailto:cvascomm@cvas-pets.org). The shelter accepts both monetary and pet supply donations. For more information, call the shelter at 717-263-5791, or visit the website: [www.cvas-pets.org](http://www.cvas-pets.org). CVAS also operates a thrift store in Chambersburg. Help support the animals at the shelter by donating to or shopping at the store.*



Kevin Bacon is a loving boy who is quite the Footloose explorer (hehe). He is about six years old and would love to find out what a loving forever home is all about. Could you show him?



Marley is a 1-year-old dilute calico who came into the shelter because her owners could no longer care for her. She is a super sweet girl who would love to find her second chance. Could that be with you?



Daemon is a Parvovirus survivor. Parvovirus attacks white blood cells and the gastrointestinal tract of dogs. Parvovirus is a serious and potentially fatal virus. When he arrived at the shelter, it was evident that Daemon did not feel well at all. He was dehydrated, vomiting, and had diarrhea. A Parvo test was performed, and it was positive. Daemon was taken to the vet for a follow up on his positive test. With supportive care, Daemon was able to overcome the serious virus! He is an 11-month-old terrier mix who has overcome a lot in his short life already and is now looking forward to the future.



Roscoe is a 5-year-old mixed breed dog who came into the shelter as a stray. He is a bit on the shy side, but once he has time to adjust, he becomes a really nice guy. He may require his potential adopters to meet him several times before he goes home with them to establish a relationship. He loves getting treats! Roscoe enjoys going out to the play yard. Due to Roscoe's shyness with new people and no past history, an age restriction for children in the home may apply, so please discuss this with the shelter staff.

For more information about Kevin Bacon, Marley, Daemon, or Roscoe, call the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter at 717-263-5791, or visit them online at [www.cvaspets.org](http://www.cvaspets.org) or better yet, visit them in person at the shelter.

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Before humans die, they write their last Will & Testament, give their home & all they have, to those they leave behind. If, with my paws, I could do the same, this is what I'd ask...

To a poor and lonely stray I'd give:

- My happy home.
- My bowl & cozy bed, soft pillows and all my toys.
- The lap, which I loved so much.
- The hand that stroked my fur & the sweet voice which spoke my name.


I'd Will to the sad, scared shelter dog, the place I had in my human's loving heart, of which there seemed no bounds.

So, when I die, please do not say, "I will never have a pet again, for the loss and pain is more than I can stand."

Instead, go find an unloved dog, one whose life has held no joy or hope and give MY place to HIM.

This is the only thing I can give...  
The love I left behind.

-- Author Unknown



# Holding patterns

Linda Shea

A large component of our work at the Frederick County Division of Animal Control and Pet Adoption Center is education. Sheltering animals is a unique endeavor, and our procedures, protocols, and processes are sometimes misunderstood. One of the more common questions we are asked is “how long do you keep animals?” The answer is “it depends.” Harley has been here since January 16, 2024 or 155+ days, dispelling the myth that we have a time limit on residency. However, we have established guidelines that are applied to each animal.

As a county agency, we are 100% County tax funded. Therefore, we only take in animals from Frederick County residences, or stray animals found within Frederick County. We ask that pet owners utilize the shelter as a last resort for pets they no longer want, or pets they can no longer keep. Owned animals that are relinquished to us may be placed immediately and owners sign a relinquishment form stating clearly, in bold, “animals relinquished to the FCACC are subject to immediate adoption or euthanasia.” That may seem harsh, but our intake process includes questions, counseling, and alternatives to help owners keep their pets.



Harley

Stray animals are held for a minimum of five (5) days during which we evaluate best placement if an owner does not come forward. Return-to-Owner (RTO) is the best scenario for strays, but adoption, rescue, foster care, or euthanasia are the other options. Exceptions are made for animals that are dangerous or suffering, in which case a course

of action may be made prior to five days in the interest of human safety or the animal’s comfort, respectively.

A less common holding period is ten (10) days for animals we impound or seize. Ten days allows an owner to relinquish the animals, reclaim depending on circumstances, or appeal our decision to take the animals. Impounds or seizures may result from a complaint of neglect or cruelty, but also from auto accidents, owners being admitted to the hospital, owner’s death or other unexpected situations that occur.

Getting back to Harley, she was originally surrendered to us for adoption back in July of 2023. By Christmas she was adopted, but returned about a month later when she just wasn’t the right fit for the family. Harley is an affectionate and fun-loving dog who enjoys playing and dressing up. Since she’s a very active dog who needs a lot of exercise she is not recommended for apartment life. This three-year-old Terrier Mix is looking to be the only pet in a home with no small children. We would like to see Harley’s stay here end and her time in a forever family begin soon.



Are you looking for a dog that is both cuddly and playful? Then meet Evan. Evan loves to cuddle up close to you and can’t get enough belly rubs, but that doesn’t mean he’s a couch potato. This senior loves to run, sniff and destroy a stuffie. He’s very treat motivated and thinks training is a fun game. Due his high prey drive Evan is best suited as an only pet. Since this senior does have some decreased vision, he’s looking for an adult only home.



Frost is one of FCAC’s shy, but sweet young adults. Even though her initial discomfort was obvious when she first landed on the adoption floor, she still loved being lavished with affection. Now a few weeks later, Frost is coming out of her shell and crawling out onto the laps of volunteers. We know in a quiet, patient home she will only continue to blossom.



Meet siblings Bernadette and Sheldon. Both of these three-month-old kittens were initially quite shy. However, Bernadette is growing more confident by the day and is there to provide support for her more timid brother. That’s one of the reasons why we’ve listed this pair as better together. Bernadette is quick to purr and initiates petting while Sheldon takes some time to warm up to affection. One area where the little guy doesn’t hesitate though is play. Sheldon can’t resist a toy swinging back and forth, or a ball rolling by. Bernadette is always happy to join in, although she can be distracted by a tasty snack.



Fun-loving Rex has recently finished his heartworm treatment. In about three weeks, Rex will have finished his kennel rest and will be able to get back to all of his favorite things: soccer, playing tug with huge branches, and digging up rocks. In addition to being super playful and goofy, Rex also has an affectionate side and has developed some great bonds with the kennel staff. As a bonus, he is dog friendly as well, but due to his high prey drive would not do well in a home with cats or small animals.

For more information about Evan, Frost, Bernadette and Sheldon, or Rex, call the Frederick County Animal Shelter at 301-600-1319 or visit them online at [www.frederickcountymd.gov/fcac](http://www.frederickcountymd.gov/fcac).

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# 2023 MOUNT ST. MARY'S TREATED WATER QUALITY REPORT

## Information Concerning Your Drinking

We're pleased to present to you the Annual Water Quality Report for 2023. This report is designed to inform you about the water quality and services we deliver to you every day. Maryland Environmental Service (MES), an Agency of the State of Maryland, began operating the water treatment facility in June 2014 and prepared this report on behalf of the Mount St. Mary's University.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulates Public Water Systems and the contaminants found in water through the implementation of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). The SDWA sets regulations and guidelines for how public water systems operate and identifies several hundred drinking water contaminants, establishes monitoring frequencies and limitations. The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) is responsible for the enforcement of the SDWA and routinely complete Sanitary Surveys as part of their ongoing inspection and monitoring program. MES provides safe dependable operations of the water system and is dedicated to consistently providing high quality drinking water that meets or exceeds the SDWA standards.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Todd Otis, Director of Capital Projects & Energy Management at 240-344-4765, e-mail: otis@msmary.edu. Copies of this report will not be mailed to consumers but are available upon request from your utility.

The Mount St. Mary's University water works consists of three drilled wells. Before the water enters the distribution network, chlorine is added to protect against microbial contaminants. The water is then pumped into a storage tank. The Maryland Department of the Environment has performed an assessment of the source water. A copy of the results is available. Call Maryland Environmental Service at 410-729-8350.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

## Definitions:

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)** - The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** - The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**Action Level** - The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow

**Treatment Technique (TT)** - A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water

**Turbidity** - Relates to a condition where suspended particles are present in the water. Turbidity measurements are a way to describe the level of "cloudiness" of the water.

pCi/l - Picocuries per liter. A measure of radiation.

ppb - parts per billion or micrograms per liter

ppm - parts per million or milligrams per liter

ppt - parts per trillion or nanograms per liter

## Sources of Drinking Water

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain

compounds in water provided by public water systems. We treat our water according to EPA's regulations. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

## Special Points of Interest

The water at the Mount St. Mary's University is tested for over 120 different compounds. The Mount St. Mary's University's drinking water met all State and Federal requirements.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some compounds. The presence of these compounds does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Safe Drinking Water Act Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

## Contaminants That May Be Present in Source Water

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife. Pesticides and Herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses. Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming. Organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations,



urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems. Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the 2023 calendar year. The presence of these compounds in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in the table is from testing done January 1 – December 31, 2023. The State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year.

## Important Information Regarding Gross Alpha Emitters

Mount St. Mary's University's water system was placed on quarterly monitoring for Gross Alpha beginning in October 2014. Compliance with the MCL will be determined based on a annual rolling average of quarterly results. Alpha emitters are naturally occurring radiations in soil, air and water. These emitters generally occur when certain elements decay or break down in the envi-

Contaminant	Highest Level Allowed (EPA's MCL)	Highest Level Detected	Ideal Goal (EPA's MCLG)
<b>Regulated at the Treatment Plant - Point of Entry</b>			
Nitrate	10 ppm	2.0 ppm	10 ppm
Typical Source of Contamination: Runoff from fertilizer use		(range from 1.3 to 2.0 ppm)	
Barium (2022 Testing)	2000 ppb	630 ppb	2000 ppb
Typical Source of Contamination: Erosion of natural deposits		(range from 310 to 630 ppb)	
Arsenic (2022 & 2023 Testing)	10 ppb	5.2 ppb	0 ppb
Typical Source of Contamination: Erosion of natural deposits		(range from 4.37 to 5.2 ppm)	
Chromium (2022 Testing)	100 ppb	9.4 ppb	100 ppb
Source: Erosion of natural deposits, discharge from steel/pulp mills		(Range: 2.5 to 9.4 ppb)	
Fluoride (2022 Testing)	4000 ppb	440 ppb	4000 ppb
Source: Erosion of natural deposits and discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories		(Range: 0 to 440 ppb)	
Combined Radium (226 & 228) (2023 Testing)	5 pCi/l	1.7 pCi/l	0 pCi/l
Typical sources of contaminant: Erosion of natural deposits		(range from 0.3 to 1.7 pCi/l)	
Uranium (2023 Testing)	30 ug/l	8.1 ug/l	0 ug/l
Typical sources of contaminant: Erosion of natural deposits		(range from 5.0 to 9.9 ug/l)	
Gross Alpha (2023 Testing)	15 pCi/l*	8.0 pCi/l*	0.0 pCi/l*
Typical Source of Contamination: Erosion of natural deposits		(range from 0 to 9.9 pCi/l)	
* Result is a rotational annual average. Please read page 2 of the Consumer Confidence report for more information on Gross Alpha Emitters.			
Gross Beta - (2023 Testing)	50 pCi/l*	5.7 pCi/l**	0.0 pCi/l
Typical Source of Contamination: Erosion of natural deposits		(range from 0 to 5.7 pCi/l)	
*EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles			
** Because the beta particle results were below 50 pCi/l, no testing for individual beta particle constituents was required			
<b>Regulated in the Distribution System</b>			
Chlorine	4 ppm	1.3 ppm *	n/a
Water Additive used to control microbes. *Annual Rolling Average		(range from 0.53 to 1.73 ppm)	
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (2023 Testing)	80 ppb	17.2 ppb	n/a
Typical Source of Contamination: By-product of drinking water chlorination		(range from 10.3 to 17.2 ppm)	
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (2023 Testing)	60 ppb	4.7 ppb	n/a
Typical Source of Contamination: By-product of drinking water chlorination		(range from 1.1 to 4.7 ppm)	
<b>Regulated in the Distribution System</b>			
	Action Level	90th percentile	Ideal Goal
Copper (2021 Testing)	1300 ppb	220 ppb	1300 ppb
Typical Source of Contamination: Corrosion of household plumbing fixtures and systems			
Lead (2021 Testing)	15 ppb	3.2 ppb	0 ppb
Typical Source of Contamination: Corrosion of household plumbing fixtures and systems			

# WATER REPORT

ronment. The emitters enter drinking water through various methods including the erosion of natural deposits. There are no immediate health risks from consuming water that contains gross alpha, however some people who drink water containing alpha emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer. Currently, the highest level of gross alpha detected is 9.0 pCi/L.

### Important Information About Arsenic

Arsenic is a semi-metal element in the periodic table. It is odorless and tasteless. It enters drinking water supplies from natural deposits in the earth or from agricultural and industrial practices. Some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years could experience skin damage or problems with their circulatory system and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. Currently, the arsenic levels are being monitored quarterly. We are constantly evaluating alternatives and treatment options for reducing the arsenic levels to less than 10 ppb.

### Lead Prevention

Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The Mount St. Mary's University Water Treatment Plant is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a

### Wells 3 & 5 2022 PFAS

Parameter	PFOS (ppt)	PFOA (ppt)	PFHxS (ppt)	GenX Chemicals (ppt)	PFNA (ppt)	PFBS (ppt)	Hazard Index (ppt)
Result	33.2	27.5	9.02	0	2.14	8.06	1.22
Limit	4	4	10	10	10	No limit	1.0
Compliant	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	No

### Well 6 2022 PFAS Results:

Parameter	PFOS (ppt)	PFOA (ppt)	PFHxS (ppt)	GenX Chemicals (ppt)	PFNA (ppt)	PFBS (ppt)	Hazard Index (ppt)
Result	4.91	5.86	2.86	0	0	3.4	0.32
Limit	4	4	10	10	10	No limit	1.0
Compliant	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes

shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, please contact Jay Janney at [jjanney@menv.com](mailto:jjanney@menv.com) for a list of laboratories in your area that provide drinking water testing. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

### Polyfluoroalkyl Substances

PFAS – short for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances – refers to a large group of more than 4,000 human-made chemicals that have been used since the 1940s in a range of products, including stain- and water-resistant fabrics and carpeting, cleaning products, paints, cookware, food packaging and fire-fighting foams. These uses of PFAS have led to PFAS entering our environment, where they have been measured by several states in soil, surface

water, groundwater, and seafood. Some PFAS can last a long time in the environment and in the human body and can accumulate in the food chain.

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) conducted a PFAS monitoring program for Community Water Systems from 2020 to 2022. No PFAS sampling was conducted for the Mount St Mary's College Water Treatment System during 2023. The results are available on MDE's website: <https://mde.maryland.gov/PublicHealth/Pages/PFAS-Landing-Page.aspx>.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized regulations for 6 PFAS compounds in drinking water in April 2024. The MCLs for PFOA and PFOS are each 4.0 parts per trillion (ppt). The MCLs for PFNA, PFHxS, and HFPO-DA (GenX chemicals) are each 10 ppt. Additionally, a mixture of two or more of the following chemicals (PFNA, PFHxS, HFPO-DA, and PFBS) will be regulated with a Hazard Index of 1 (unitless) to determine if the combined levels of these PFAS pose a risk and require action.



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## HEALTH

## Frederick Health names nurses &amp; employees of the year

Joshua Faust

With a strong emphasis on team culture, excellence, and patient-facing care, Frederick Health, the largest healthcare provider in the area, prides itself on its employee recognition efforts. Each year, the healthcare system names two nurses of the year and two employees of the year, one a team leader and one a team member.

Why two of each, you may ask?

In healthcare, nurses are usually assigned to two unique categories. The first is patient-facing or direct-care nurses. These nurses are responsible for patient care in the hospital, urgent care,

emergency department, and inpatient treatment. The other category is indirect-care nurses. These nurses administer system-wide programs, new initiatives, and other essential operational tasks. Both categories are vital in maintaining the high level of care provided by healthcare teams and systems. Additionally, most employees at Frederick Health are considered team members or team leaders. It is important to honor the unique contributions in each category.

Additionally, their colleagues and peers must nominate the award winners. The nominations are then reviewed and compared by a selection committee. Once the committee has decided the

winners, they are announced at two different ceremonies. As such, Frederick Health is pleased to announce the 2024 winners in each category.

**Jeb Gibson, a Clinical Nurse Specialist in the Emergency Department, was named the Indirect Care Nurse of the Year.**

Wearing many hats, Jeb is a strong nurse, educator, paramedic, and Clinical Nurse Specialist. Working in the emergency department can sometimes be challenging, but Jeb has accomplished a great deal in helping to keep this community healthy. His years of experience, certifications, and education make

him a strong leader and patient advocate. Throughout the pandemic, Jeb rose to the challenge and supported the hospital.

"This is such an incredible honor. I have the benefit of being surrounded by an amazing team. I am truly humbled," said Gibson. Jeb's manager had high praise for Gibson.

"He routinely shows his dedication, compassion, leadership, and expertise; he is a proven, trusted asset to Frederick Health," said Peggy McNeill, Director of Nursing Quality and Professional Practice

**Ellen Nicodemus, a Registered Nurse in the Pediatrics Department, was named the Direct Care Nurse of the Year.**

According to her colleagues and supervisors, Ellen is a fantastic asset to the Pediatrics team. With over 22 years of experience, she is a leader and someone all staff look up to, always there to aid others with a smile. The Pediatrics Department praised Ellen for her way of teaching both clinical expertise and the art of compassion.

"I've always felt privileged to be part of this team of healthcare providers. It means a lot to be recognized by my peers, whom I really admire," Nicodemus stated.

Nicodemus, slated to retire later this year, is much beloved by her entire department.

"Ellen is the epitome of the art of nursing. She has the delicate balance of skill, compassion, integrity, and experience that all nurses should strive for," said Charli Crawford, Manager of the Pediatrics Department.

The 2024 Employees of the Year winners were equally surprised and honored by their awards.

**Brenda Zell, Accounting Manager, was named Team Leader of the Year.**

Zell has worked at Frederick Health for over 49 years. Her responsibilities include monthly and annual financial reporting for the organization. She also maintains accurate accounting records and leads all banking transactions with vendors. Many 'other duties are assigned,' including supporting numerous grants, COVID-19 and FEMA-related funding, and annual Community Benefits reporting.

"This means everything to be recognized by my peers. They are all like family," said Zell.

Zell is known to nearly everyone in Frederick Health, and her efforts impact almost every facet of the organization.

"Brenda is the epitome of dedication and loyalty," said Hannah Jacobs, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer with Frederick Health. She meets the daily stress of her role with optimism. Her entire team values her positive spirit and compassionate leadership style, and she has demonstrated her commitment with long-tenured careers here at Frederick Health."

**Clayton Holdcroft, Learning Technology Specialist, was named Team Member of the Year.**

Holdcroft has worked at Frederick Health for six years. He is responsible for streamlining internal processes, designing, and updating Human Resources communication tools, and organizing the internal NetLearning employee modules. He is also a strong advocate for employee engagement and education.

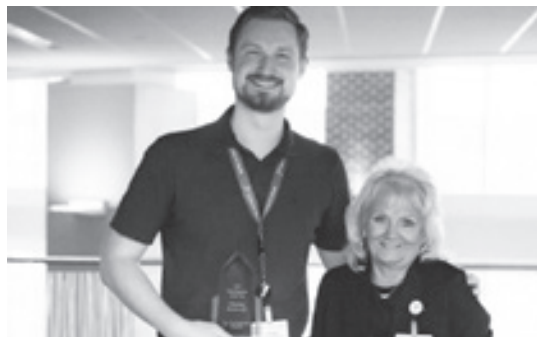
"It's a pretty high honor," said Holdcroft, "there were so many amazing people nominated that I think it's a testament to the wonderful team we have at Frederick Health."

"Clayton is like our Swiss Army Knife," said Chris Bumbaugh, Vice President of Human Resources with Frederick Health. He can do it all. Clayton has a great talent for technology, analytics, and data integration. He makes life better for many people at Frederick Health and is one of the nicest people I know. I can't say enough nice things about him; he is a star."

Congratulations to Jeb, Ellen, Brenda, and Clayton.



Brenda Zell and Clayton Holdcroft



Jeb Gibson and Ellen Nicodemus

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## Creating a 4th of July tradition - The Woodsboro Music

Gracie Smith  
MSMU Class of 2027

Fourth of July is one of the most patriotic holidays to exist, if not *the* most. Filled with cookouts, pool parties, family, friends, and fireworks, it is one of the key events of the summer season. Each town has its own, unique way of getting together to celebrate this iconic holiday. This year, Joe Williams will be hosting the 3rd annual Woodsboro Musical Festival on July 4th at Regional Park in Woodsboro. This festival is a wonderful way to pay tribute to our nation, as well as celebrate the hidden talents that the community has to offer. Many of you may remember the music festival last year. The performers, the fun, and the memories will make a return this summer on July 4th, with July 6th as the rain date. This raises the question, why is it important to Joe that we get together as a community and celebrate our nation and talents?

Joe was a practicing lawyer for over 40 years. He emphasized that his job was rewarding, but also was very time-consuming and stressful; a very realistic and understandable problem for many. This led Joe to reflect on his goals in life. Those being to play the guitar and to write novels. He turned to his goals to help balance his work life and his personal life. This proved to be very successful, so Joe encouraged his coworkers to get involved in music and be more open about their playing. From his enthusiasm, he and his coworkers were able to start a band called The Bulgers and later The Objections.

Joe recounts this as being very exciting for him, since these very professional people, doctors and lawyers that is, were playing music and having fun outside of their stressful work environments. Not only did this allow Joe and his coworkers to relieve stress, but they

were able to bond over a similar interest outside of the work environment. Music gave them a reason to get together, and ultimately led to long-lasting friendships. Joe and his coworkers would perform at music festivals year-round, specifically the Greenway Music Festival. Not only did his coworkers practice music, but so would his children who grew to be very talented in the arts.

However, all of this came to a halt in 2019 when Joe suffered a stress-induced brain injury from work. This left him in a coma and paralyzed. From this, Joe ultimately retired from being a lawyer after 43 years. Not to worry, he has made a full recovery and is now committed to guitar playing and writing.

Joe's passion for music and his community influenced him to begin the Woodsboro Music Festival. In the beginning, the festival took place during the crisp months of autumn. This didn't work out as planned since the instruments didn't perform well in cooler temps. So, it was moved to July 4th, the middle of the summer when the heat is plentiful. After the success of the festival, the town of Woodsboro built a permanent stage in Regional Park so that the festival could take place every year.

This year, the third annual Woodsboro Music Festival will begin at 1 o'clock on Thursday, July 4th. The rain date will be July 6th. Several bands, solo acts, and the highlight performer, Valerie Smith and the bluegrass band, will be in attendance to provide energetic entertainment for the festival and holiday. In addition to the outstanding performers, there will be several other exciting things to do and take part in. There will be a distillery, brewery, winery, food trucks, frisbees, and disk golf. The highlight performers will begin their acts at promptly 5 o'clock. Many different music tastes will surround the park and appeal to those of all ages. From



100 years ago, concerts were the highlight of community 4th of July celebrations. Woodsboro is seeking to rejuvenate and recapture the spirit of that tradition.

country music and bluegrass music to classic rock, it is guaranteed that you will hear a song you love. Be sure to bring something to sit on, such as a blanket or chairs. Oh, and a smile too!

Community is one of the many things that need to be cherished more in today's society. In addition to our family and friends, our community also helps raise our children, support our farms and businesses, protect our land, and our families. In a small town like Woodsboro, these events are a great way to spend time with your family, friends, and neighbors all while celebrating our

freedom we have to pursue our hobbies and grow with one another to become better. Surrounded by family, friends, and neighbors, how else would you want to celebrate our nation? All of that, and a community cookout too!

Community involvement is crucial for us to build stronger bonds with each other and have several people to trust in the event of an emergency. As time goes on, it would appear that communities are drifting farther and farther apart as fami-

lies choose to be more independent. Communities benefit everyone, and getting involved, just like Joe, will only lead you to a happy, fulfilling, and successful life. Joe's efforts in bringing his Woodsboro community together are admirable and praiseworthy, and we should all do our part and support him and his family at the festival on the 4th of July.

Please, do not be shy to share your musical talents with the community on this festive occasion! Walk-ups are welcome, but to ensure a spot on the stage and plan accordingly, please contact Joe Williams at 410-812-8228.

# HISTORY

## The Contralto

Rev. Charles Maloy, C. M.  
St. Joseph's Parish, Emmitsburg

### Chapter 3

*Continued from last month*

“God Almighty! Heard what?” Gsnapped Mrs. Hopp, and anyone not deafened by the emotions of an outraged moral sense, would have known from her tone that she was fully cognizant of the startling affair.

Mrs. Neck, heeding on: “Marion Tyson rode the Professor’s horse down Main Street this afternoon and they say pretended to have a sprained ankle just to make his acquaintance.”

“God Almighty! Marion made that skittish beast of hers run away I suppose, and the Professor ought to have left her on the road to die and the crows of this pick her bones and all because the tongues in town are hung in the middle and clack at both ends and some people can’t mind their own business and, bah!”—the peroration of Mrs. Hopp’s speech was lost in a generous infusion of snuff.

“Well, I don’t care, she is a brawn thing and it’s just like her to take up a flirtation with that fellow and bring a bad name on this town.”

“God Almighty! Mary, if any woman could break her neck after a man the way you did after that poor galoot Joe Neck, I’d like to know.”

This argumentum ad hominem served to check Mrs. Neck in her flow of moral indignation and caused her to take another tack. She came back at her adversary with: “Don’t swear so, Mrs. Hopp, and you such a church member.”

“God Almighty! woman, I ain’t swearing, and as for my being a church member, I don’t go half as much as you do, and when I go, I do it to worship God and not to find something to tell

about my neighbors.”

Mrs. Neck felt her grievance against Marion and the Professor intensified by this encounter with the Holy Terror and declared that she would never darken her door again, to which the latter retorted something about good riddance. Wending her weary way home, she poured out her grief to her husband, who held the position of cowman at the Academy. He felt bound to say something to assuage the sorrow of his much moved wife.

“Don’t take it to heart so, Mary. Mrs. Hopp’s getting on in years and she does think a heap of Marion.”

“Well, that don’t give her the right to insult me, one of her oldest and best friends, and you mark my words that Professor don’t mean good to the young girls of this town.”

“Oh! I don’t know, Mary, the men think he’s a all-right feller.”

“Joe Neck! even you turn against me,” she screamed and snatching the baby from him rushed into the best room, slammed the door and gave way to a paroxysm of grief. Joe, taking his hat, went down to meet the evening train.

In the large house at the end of Main Street sat Marion, her ankle, propped on a chair, stinging from Dr. Brawnner’s liniment applications, reciting to her mother the details of the afternoon’s adventure. She was almost ecstatic in her admiration of the Professor’s horsemanship, telling how with a few deft movements he had made the fiery Prince do just as he wished. Every item of his appearance was discussed, his manner of wearing his cap commented upon as a possible index of his disposition. His age was guessed at, inquiry instituted as to why his hair should be turning grey. Had her mother noticed what beautiful blue eyes were hidden behind the thick lenses of his glasses, and how did he manage to wear pince-



Rows' Boot & Shoe repair store on West Main Street.

nez when riding?

“Don’t you think him handsome, mumma?” “Yes, dear, and good, too.”

“Of course, he is good,” defiantly as though there were question in her mother’s declaration. “We must invite him to dinner as soon as we become better acquainted.”

On their tete-a-tete broke Mrs. Hopp. No lines of social demarcation existed for the Holy Terror. Others might draw and respect them but not she. Mrs. Hopp passed at her own sweet will from upper to lower crusts of Emmitsburg society without let or hindrance, never giving much information to one set about the business of the other. With a bottle of her five-year-old wine under her arm she bounced into the room, kissing mother and daughter in turn, risking the upsetting of the count in stitches of the one’s knitting, and the other’s balance in her chair.

“God Almighty! child are you hurt?”

“Only a sprain,” answered the girl, recovering her equipoise.

“And what do you think of the Professor man?” “He is a perfect gentleman,” affirmed the mother. “Of course he is,” with a sniff for any possible contradiction, “did you talk much with him, Marion?”

“No, my ankle pained and the whole town was so interested.”

“Sure they were interested, why wouldn’t they be with them all just crazy to meet him?”

“Well, I wasn’t,” declared the girl stoutly.

“Here’s a bottle of my five-year-old wine, dear, you shall need it to give you strength. Did you invite the Professor to dinner?”

“Not yet; it would not be the proper thing on such short acquaintance.”

“Proper thing fiddlesticks! Who knows anything about the proper thing in this town? That boy is up there at the rectory eating his nails off for something to do and we stand on ceremony. Didn’t he save your life? I’m going to invite him to tea as soon as I meet him again.”

“So shall we,” said Mrs. Tyson,” but we are waiting lest he think us too forward.”

“That young fellow is not the kind to bother about the intentions of anyone who is kind to him. I asked the Rector how he took my talking about his store teeth, and he told me the Professor enjoyed it immensely. Did you hear the dressing down he gave Ike Annan at the post office this morning?”

“No,” answered both women, for they were never au courant with local gossip.

“I heard it up at Pete’s, and I think it too good to keep. Annan was criticizing Sunday baseball, when Dr. Forman told the crowd that Father Flynn refused to let the Mt. St. Mary’s boys play the town. The Professor heard Ike and getting off his horse, had some words and then told him he would break every bone in his darned carcass, only he used the real word. He also told Ike that he was on to him playing poker in Jim’s back room on Sundays.”

“I am sure Isaac Annan provoked him,” said Mrs. Tyson,” or else he would not have used such language.”

“I would like to have seen his blue

eyes at the moment,” declared Marion with a rather unladylike wink at Mrs. Hopp.

“Take care of yourself, my dear, and get that ankle in shape as soon as you can; and you,” to the mother, “sell that beast of a horse and buy a more gentle one. Don’t forget to invite him to dinner,” was her parting advice.

Higbee, the foreman of the Emmitsburg Chronicle, interviewed the Professor that evening on the accident. He desired full details as the editor intended to make them the text for some scathing comment on reckless auto-driving. Shortly before, an old farmer had died of heart failure, the attack having been brought on through over-exertion in trying to master a colt frightened by a heedless motorist. The impression was abroad that the college youths had knowingly left the injured Miss Tyson to her fate and there were signs of a healthy indignation arising in the town.

The Professor defended the boys from this charge assuring Higbee they were well past before the young lady’s horse bolted. He deduced this from what the girl had told him, admitting, however, the youngsters were exceeding the speed limit,” though,” he added, “Hugo Munsterburg would not allow the validity of such testimony in a court.”

This last gave a personal touch to the interview and Higbee soon lost his professional air. The baseball game which had been called off, came in for its share of discussion, naturally leading to the position taken by the college authorities toward the townspeople. Economic conditions received some consideration, the foreman evidencing well defined ideas on this point, also quoting the editor, Mr. Galt. Both were desirous to enlist his help in their endeavors for the uplift of the village, and Higbee left after obtaining a promise that the Professor would look in on the editorial staff of the town Paper.

After the Rector retired Harry sat long in thought. He tried to remount the stream of the day’s happenings, but from every point his mental eyes were met by a distracting figure. A round olive face crowned with an aureole of raven black hair, large brown eyes smiling through tears, were pres-

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# HISTORY

ent, whichever way he turned. Several times he laughed softly, endeavoring to dispel the vision. He had not come to his thirtieth year without sundry such experiences but never had they left a lasting impression. College widows in his callow youth supplied passing amusement, but vacation time and an early comprehension of the philosophy of Tallyrand's dictum, "None but a woman or a fool writes a letter," had kept him from compromises.

Long application to the study of the deeper problems of existence had unfitted him for dealing with the concrete phases of the world. Lack of contact with reality had generated a superman attitude, accompanied by mild cynicism towards the pleasanter aspects of life. Since overwork and indulgence in stimulants had led him to what he honestly termed, in his own mind, dipsomania, he had resolved to persevere in the blessed or cursed, whichever it might prove, way of single going. No woman should ever be subjected to sorrow on his account. Still he selfishly concluded the cultivation of Miss Tyson's friendship would help him pass the term of his exile more agreeably. On retiring he felt for the first time in years an inclination to pray, the struggle with insomnia and the severe thirst were absent, and in a few minutes he slept blissfully.

#### Chapter 4

Waking to a new day affects the human mind variously according to age.

The old are generally depressed, their flow of lively emotions has slowed up, their capacity for happiness has lessened, they live backward in memory recalling the mistakes of the yestertime. The young are jubilant living forward in hope, sensations alone sufficing and succeeding one another rapidly, anticipating pleasures still in the womb of the future. Failures have not yet seared the youthful soul nor brought home to it the transitoriness of all things human. A new sensation is reflected in its joy-

ous outlook as the sun is glassed on the dancing ripples of a breeze fanned lake.

The Professor slept until the sun was high in the heavens and when he awoke was surprised that he had not his customary *mal de tete*, a new experience of late years. The cold bath prescribed by the nerve specialist was taken with a right good will, the whistling with which it was accompanied reaching the Rector's ears, causing that gentleman to smile knowingly. Breakfast was eaten joyously with many apologies to Bob for the inconvenience to which the Professor's tardiness had put him.

"Do you all want the boss saddled, Professor?" "Not this morning, Robert, I shall give him a day of rest."

"Shall I exercise him in the yard?" wistfully. "How about taking him and Buster for a little run, can you ride?"

"Can I? And I won't ride him hard neither."

"I know you won't, my boy, and when you return rub him down well."

"Thanks, Professor; may I go now?"

"Go ahead, Robert," and the youngster ran off to make ready for a triumph over the budding female hearts of the village. Harry finished his coffee amidst thoughts on the best offering to take to his injured friend. Running over in his mind the topography of the town, he failed to recall a florist shop. Was there one, he pondered. What kind of candy could he buy? There was but one way to find out, go and inquire, so taking his hat he sallied forth to be met at the gate of the parsonage by John Glass, local constable, lamplighter and grave-digger.

"Professor," said John, removing his corduroy Cap.

"Well, sir," touching his own hat, "what can I do for you?"

"It's this way, Professor," still holding the cap. "Put on your hat."

"Well, you see we always keeps off our hats talkin' to the college men," doing as ordered.

"I am not a college man," with spe-

cial emphasis on the last two words, "so you need not stand bare-headed in my presence. What can I do for you?"

"Well, sir, you see I'm constable in this town."

"You have a warrant for my arrest?" laughing.

"Oh, no sir, nothin' like that, but it's this way. My boy stole my hoss last night, tied him outside the Splangler, went in and got drunk. Somebody seen the boss standin' so long they told me and I went down and 'rested it. I put it in Jim Morris's stable and hired Jim for a dollar to watch it 'feared somebody would take it away."

This mornin' I made a complaint to Squire Rowe, then I found out it was my own hoss, and my boy's a minor and I have to pay everything."

"That was hard luck, Mr. Glass," smothering his merriment, "now what can I do to help you?"

"Well, it's this way, I thought as maybe you might lend me the three-eighty until I get paid."

"Certainly; here are four dollars, I haven't the exact change. Where is that boy of yours now?"

"He's down home asleep, and thank you, Professor."

Ascertaining the whereabouts of the house he went there. At first, the object of his solicitude resented the intrusion, but softening under the charm of the Professor's geniality, told the whole story of his debauch. After feeling the boy's pulse, and looking at his tongue, he left saying he would return in a few minutes. The watchers at Peter's were astonished to see him walk into the bar of the Spangler, from where he emerged later with a package under his arm wrapped in newspaper.

Thence he went to Zimmerman's drug store, and in a few minutes passed again down Main street. The boy's mother supplied a glass and spoon.

"How much do you take as a drink?"

"I don't know, but Jim Kellner asks me if I'm goin' to take a bath whenever I pour a swig."

"That will hold you for a while," laughing as he poured four fingers into the old-fashioned tumbler.

"It ain't doped is it, Professor?" taking the glass in his trembling hand.

"No, the dope comes later."

The drink was swallowed, the boy lay back on the settee, shutting his eyes while Harry busied himself mixing a powder and colorless fluid. This he presented with orders that it be taken quickly. It was down with much subsequent sputtering, at which the Professor grinned. Telling the mother the boy must not be disturbed for several hours, he withdrew. Walking back to the parsonage, the morning sun appeared to have lost some of its warmth and his step some of its elasticity.

The run with Bob had by no means satisfied, Buster and when his master came out about three in the afternoon he was wailing. Spying a cat in the graveyard the collie manifested his exuberance of spirit by giving chase, the feline fortunately putting a fence between itself and danger. He took his defeat gracefully, trotting along in search of new adventure. Their way led past the church tower out of which came Uncle Bennett locking the door behind him.

"Just been up winding the clock, Professor." "Yes, is that one of your duties?"

"Hardest job in town, all on account of people who think they got standard time," with sarcastic emphasis.

"Isn't your clock correct?"

"Ain't one in the state does better; I set it by my sun-dial and the Hagerstown Almanac, and I know it's always right. Now, you see according to the Almanac this month, the sun is five minutes late—"

"Yes," interrupted the other, not wishing to show his ignorance of Astronomy.

"And," continued the old fellow with warmth, "that's just what that clock says. The yaps around this town are always talking standard time, what they get by telegraph from Washinton, and telling me I'm fast or slow. When we got that clock there was the darndest resurrection of old turnips you ever seen, and Davy Ruff had to get Tate Hoke to help him polish 'em up. Since, they're all toting dog-chains and small-sized alarm clocks."

"I should think a few minutes one way or the other would not make much difference to the people of this village; time is the only thing of which they appear to have plenty to spend."

continued next month



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# 100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

## July 4

### Fourth Of July Thoughts

Our national holidays are too much given over to mere outward manifestations of observance and too little to recognition of the underlying ideas which gave these festivals importance.

Independence Day should set the American people thinking of the real and permanent meaning of the Declaration of Independence, and the vital significance of the Fourth of July.

The story of the birth of American nationality is one of the most inspiring in all the annals of mankind. No other nation has been born of such high purposes, broad visions and unselfish spirit of service to humanity.

The Declaration of Independence was signed by a company of greater men than ever before had been joined in the founding of a nation. Their act represented something far greater and nobler than your personal dissatisfaction with the existing order. They were men who would have better serve their personal advantage by desisting from this act. Moved by the purist patriotism, they launch defiance against the powerful military power, supposedly capable of crushing the feeble forces of the colonies, knowing that monarchy was sure to define their acts as treason, and probably punish their act with death.

Americans on Independence Day should dedicate themselves anew to the principles, the tradition, and the ideas of the Great Republic—the most wisely conceived, the most strongly developed nation of all times, where the wildest range of opportunities, the loftiest level of intelligence and the highest plane of life for the masses have been attained in all the history of the world.

It is a time for rereading the story of the nation, the struggles for independence - the most romantic and most thrilling chapter in the history of humanity - the story of the young Republic's growth from feeble beginnings to its present high estate of power and influence.

Too many Americans do not comprehend their country. Patriotism has been ridiculed until they are ashamed to manifest it. The institutions of this country have been attacked until they

fear to have faith in them.

To you know your country is to love it, to cherish it and to stand ready to defend it—to return the scoffing of the skeptics with scorn and rebuke, the misunderstandings of the superficial saphheads, who imagine they are manifesting superiority and moral breath by decrying the country and the citizens love for it and his purpose to defend it against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

The truth about the man who professes to love all other countries as well as his own is that he loves no country at all. He is lacking in the instinct of loyalty to things worthwhile which differentiates the patriot from the traitor.

Have faith in America! Have love for America! For love of this Republic is love of humanity, which this Republic from its beginning has served so well by example and action.

### Thurmont To Have Big Fourth Celebration

One of the largest Fourth of July celebrations ever held in Thurmont will take place today.

An elaborate program, which includes a parade, a baseball game, &c. has been prepared by the Civic League of Thurmont, which is in charge of the demonstrations. The League is also being assisted by the Town authorities and other interested persons.

In the afternoon at 1 o'clock the parade will form on the grounds of the Thurmont high school. In the parade will be several floats and a number of decorated automobiles. The parade will be followed by a baseball game between Thurmont and Middletown.

At 7 o'clock there will be community singing in Memorial Park, and the exercises will be brought to a close with the display of fireworks and a lawn fete. It was declared by one of those in charge, that all that is needed to make it a success is good weather

### Frederick County Tax Rate

The tax rate of Frederick County has been fixed at \$1.35 per \$100 of assessed value, a 17 cents increase from the prior year.

The increased rate, one of the Commissioners claim, is due to the large public school appropriation, increase in the cost of public road, mainte-

nance, an increase of two cents for the sinking fund, and two other expenses that had to be met. Provisions had to be made for the improvement of two new roads, Liberty to Johnsville, and Woodsboro to Ladiesburg, not included in last year's budget.

It is understood that the school appropriation is approximately \$325,000, or 65% of the entire County budget. The next largest budget appropriation is for roads.

The Commissioners endeavored as far as was in their power to keep down the rate, and the budget list was gone over a number of times and reductions made wherever this was possible. It has been apparent for sometime that the tax rate would be increased this year.

It making up the budget many items are fixed by law. It is understood that the school appropriation was cut and that the road items, although above the total of last year, were kept down to a minimum. One of the Commissioners stated at the new rate is the lowest that could have been fixed in view of appropriations, deemed absolutely necessary.

### First Airmail Letter Received In Town

Donald Hesson received on Thursday morning, a letter by air-mail from his father Albert, of Elk, Nevada; the first trip east of a U.S. Mail airplane service. The letter was postmarked July 1 and arrived here in just two days. The letter carried a \$.24 airplane stamp in addition to two cents regular postage.

### Fairfield Holds Community Meeting And Parade

The Radcliffe junior workers got the people of Fairfield and outlining districts together for a real meeting. They had a Chautauqua parade at 6:30 and awarded prizes to the best-dressed children. Robert & Mary Bartley won first prize. They were dressed as a bride and groom. Kathryn Allison received second prize. She was costumed as a Civil War veteran. Miss Patterson, of the Radcliffe Chautauqua gave four readings. In one of her talks, she stress the fact that Fairfield would have with it the Plymouth Male Quartet, which will render standard and popular male quartet music for the first day program.



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### Farmer Barred Who Watered Milk

Watery milk from the farm of Harry Stonesifer, of Emmitsburg, will no longer be accepted by the Baltimore markets. Assistant State Health Commissioner Frederick Hempel, has issued an order which permanently bars the delivery of Stonesifer's products. According to Mr. Hempel, samples taken at Stonesifer's place showed that in every gallon of milk there was 1 quart of water.

protection of our property — livestock, and the like — may lead to the protection of human life. We may be more interested in the value of our own cattle and chickens, then we are just "other people and their children." The question is quite worthwhile considering as a possible course for bringing about greater safety on the public highways. Sometimes by experimenting with one thing, we find another just as valuable.

### Radio Facts

Few people need to be told how rapidly radio is interpenetrating every part of our daily life. A writer has contributed to us a most comprehensive article.

"More than 2.5 million radio sets have been manufactured and sold in the last three years in this country, with 500 broadcasting stations in operation in our United States, and 16,000 amateur transmitters sending and receiving.

"According to engineers of the Radio Corporation, 300 manufacturers are turning out sets or parts of sets, 30 radio magazines have been started, 250 books have been written, 2 million listeners constitute the present radio audience, and they spend 175 million on their hobby last year, giving employment in one way or another to half a million people. There are 12 transatlantic stations, which communicate not only with France and Latin America, but with 2,700 radio equip ships."

### Farmers Make Use Of Good Weather

Farmers have been making good use of a more or less unsettled week. A great deal of wheat has been cut and on the shock, but steady, hot dry weather has not yet appeared. Corn is doing well, considering the season, and most of the hay remains to be made. The indications are that nei-

## July 11

### Avoid Killing Chickens

One of our subscribers tells us he has lost about \$10 worth of chickens over the last three months. They were rundown and killed by auto drivers who did not think, or do not care, how hard it is for a man to make a living these days. Several of this man's neighbors have lost poultry the same way.

Anyone who travels by road does not have to be told about this nuisance. Poultry to do well should have free range. It is nearly impossible, and will be highly expensive, to fence, poultry from the roads. The civilized motorist seldom, or never, kills a chicken. The slayers are the reckless speeders, who whiz by and probably try to see if they can't kill a chicken crossing their path. A state law requiring a driver to stop and pay for any poultry, he kills, or be subject to a fine, would fix these fellows, and quite literally the farmers could be trusted to see that the law was enforced.

When motorist can knock down and kill human beings, with a strong probability of the act being called "unavoidable", it seems hardly worthwhile to seriously mention, such a loss as that of chicken; and yet, we don't know about that.

Perhaps, appealing for the greater

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# 100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

ther yield nor quality will be up to the average. The wheat so far is very fair, both in quality and condition. The weather, during the next two weeks, will be of extreme importance to the year's farming results.

The rains that were much too numerous in May and June are needed now for corn and potatoes, and vegetation in general, and the more so because the ground is baked and hard from the wet spring, and unworked cornfields.

The Freezer Canning Company in Keymar has been going full force the past week. They have been working day and night, and there has been as many as 28 loads of peas waiting to be unloaded, they employ about 35 people. The factory is one of the most up-to-date you will find any place.

### Taneytown School Situation

A public meeting was held on Monday night, in the Presbyterian Church, for the purpose of considering the high school building question. Reverend Reedley stated that as the building has been condemned as unsafe by three building inspectors, Taneytown has no building in which to open school in about two months. He also made it clear that it is not necessary to have experts to point out the defects in the building, but that they are easily in evidence to unprotected eyes – "the building is unsafe for further use."

He said that repairing of the present building, that could be made only at heavy expense, would not be desirable, as a best, it would be a makeshift for only a short time, as the building is too small, and the present location is not adopted to enlargement. He spoke against the portable building option.

The final conclusion was that as large a delegation as possible, should go before the County Commissioners, Tuesday afternoon, and insist strongly on the creation of a new permanent building on a new location to be agreed-upon, with the understanding that the latter be locally finance, to an amount, not to exceed \$1,500/year.

During the course of the discussion, it was brought out that the case was not an ordinary demand for a "new school building". The situation of

the County Commissioners in hearing such cases was fully appreciated, in the face of strong demand for reduced taxes, and their efforts to satisfy all reasonable request on both sides was fully appreciated, but the Taneytown situation represents an emergency – a plainly developed necessity, and such demanded prompt action on the part of the Commissioners.

### Run Down By Automobile

Mrs. Alpheus Firor, of Franklinville, between Thurmont and Emmitsburg, was struck by automobile driven by James Dick, Sunday around noon, knocking her down and badly lacerating her face and head and bruising her body.

Mrs. Firor, and her young daughter, attended the Lutheran Church service at Thurmont, Sunday morning, and were driven home in the automobile of David Zentz. The machine stopped on the opposite side of the road from her house.

As she attempted to cross the road, in the rear of the machine, a large touring car driven by Mr. Dick came along. She did not see the approaching car until she had gotten nearly halfway across the road, and she started back. The driver made an effort to avoid an accident, but his car struck the woman and knocked her down.

Mr. Dick, who is driving, was on his way to Creagerstown. The injured woman was taken to her house and Dr. Birely was summoned. After an examination, he brought her to the city hospital.

Mr. Dick was driving at a moderate speed. The accident, it was stated, was unavoidable. The car of Mr. Zentz prevented Mrs. Firor from seeing the approaching machine until it was too late for her to get out of the way. It is stated that Mrs. Firor was doing well and that no bones were broken.

### July 18

#### The Dog Days Are Here

The 40-day period known as the Dog Days Of Summer, which is usually associated with hot and sticky weather began last Thursday and continues until August 23. It is the time of year when mosqui-

toes, ants, silver bugs, and gnats do their darndest; when bread molds in the bread box; when butter runs all over the plate a few minutes after it leaves the ice chest; when milk left by the mutual milkman before the homeowner fetches it off the front porch; when exercise is an agony, when women's patience is at the lowest, and men's temperature is at its warmest.

The canine-sounding name of the season does not refer to the animal, man's long, suffering, friend and companion, though perhaps some have thought of the Dog Days as days when dogs go mad, or lie around with long, red tongues protruding and panting heavily in an effort to keep cool. Astronomers tell us rather that the name is associated with Sirius, the Dog Star, which rises with the sun about July 23, or in the middle of the period.

Astronomers also tell us that Sirius has nothing to do with the unusual heat and humidity of mid-summer, but that unjust association is a relic of the time when astrology and astronomy were confused and celestial omens and influences were taken seriously. If one however, were to pick out the 40 days of the year which average, the hottest, one would find that temperatures do correspond pretty accurately with the Dog Days.

#### Wife Saves Husband

Charles Harbaugh, 65, of Fairfield, was rescued from a burning death by his aged wife, when she pulled him from atop the kitchen fire, after he had fallen backwards into the stove, following a heart attack.

Mr. Harbaugh, whose health is rapidly failing, but who insist upon performing numerous household duties, because of the condition of his aged wife, who is also suffering from the affirmatives of old age, was in the act of preparing a washing when the accident happened.

He was preparing a tub of water near the kitchen stove when he suffered a heart attack. He fell backwards onto the kitchen stove, struck his head against a kettle of water, emptying the kettle and its contents onto the floor, while his head fell into the open grate, where the fire blazed.

Attracted by the noise in the kitchen, Mrs. Harbaugh, hurried into the room and found her husband helpless, his head in the fire, while his clothes were at a point of bursting into flames. Despite her infirmity, and weakened condition & strength, driven by her desire to aid her stricken spouse, she jerked and tugged at the clothing on her husband, until she had extracted him from the stove.

Mr. Harbaugh suffered severe burns around the back of his head, but last reports are to the effect that he will recover, although his head will bear scars from the burns.

### July 25

#### Unlucky Week For Some

Marvin Haugh, of Keymar, met with what might have been a fatal accident. In his herd of cattle he had a cross male cow, to which he had a heavy block attached to protect him and family, and on going to the barn, one morning found the bull had gotten the block off. Mr. Haugh thought he would go in and get the block and try to get the bull in the barn, and put the block on again, when the bull made for him, caught him, before he could get out of the way and the cow gourd him considerably.

His 13-year-old son came to his rescue by jabbing the animal in the jaw with a fork, which saved his father from death. He was taken to the house and fainted several times, but under doctors care he's getting along well.

The same day, an electrical storm passed over the house, where Mrs. Haugh was sitting on the front of her husband's bed, the lightning struck the house, throwing her to the floor, unconscious. The lightning tore several windows out, and a lot of the weather boarding on the house off, but there was no fire.

Margaret, the little daughter of Oliver Metcalf, was seriously injured by a vicious cow a few days ago. She was playing at the barn when

attacked, and only the prompt action of her grandfather, and one of the men who were nearby saved her life. She was taken to the Frederick City Hospital for examination, but as no bones were found broken, she was brought home. She is suffering intensely from bruises, but unless complication should arise, it is thought she will recover.

#### Emmitsburg Farm Bureau Cooperative Store Ready

The Emmitsburg Farm Bureau Cooperative store is practically assured and is expected that the location will be announced in a few days.

For sometime the Bureau has been working on plans to bring the store about and a committee has been working out the details and arranging the financial side with the results that everything is now in readiness to open up.

Paul Koons, who is in charge of a few stores in the County, will be manager of the Emmitsburg branch. Mr. Koons has had considerable experience in this line of business, and from what can be learned, Mr. Koons thinks that the Emmitsburg Bureau should prove a big success.

The committee has had very little difficulty in raising money to finance the project. Already \$7,000 has been subscribed with plenty and reserve if it is needed. Is the object of the Bureau to have all the members take some little share in the store, so that all may have a personal interest and work for the advancement of this big undertaking.

Since it became known that a plan was afoot to open up such a store, there has been a great deal of discussion concerning the venture. A few citizens have been heard to object to such an organization, putting forth the claim that it is a monopoly, and would be hurtful to other business interest in the community. Others claim that the store comes just at the right time as the farmers are compelled to pay too much for supplies.

To read other articles related to 100 Years Ago this Month, visit the History section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).

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# HISTORY

## The ghosts of Mount St. Mary's

Steve Morano  
MSMU Class of 2024

Stories are often the greatest har-binger of both legacy and history. It is what inspires people to write on the subject and what draws us closer to the past. Across the 216-year history of Mount St. Mary's University, many moments and people from the wider world stand out. Mother Theresa, Dwight Eisenhower, Bobby Kennedy, and other members of society who the wider world colloquially agree upon as "celebrities" have graced the school grounds. But if one were to look a little deeper into the rich history of the school itself, a person may find that the lesser-known names in history are as interesting, if not, more interesting than those famous ones known by all. That is what author and alumnus of Mount St. Mary's, John Singleton, set out to do.

The inspiration for the book that Singleton went onto write, titled "The Meaning of Mount St. Mary's," was inspired by a meeting with an apparition of the past, a ghost. In 1984, at the beginning of Singleton's winter break, he decided to take a walk up to the Grotto and even further to Indian Lookout on top of College Mountain during one of the many lulls in his mornings checking empty rooms while serving as a residential assistant. As he crossed over the top of the Grotto steps leading from campus, Singleton heard flute music coming

from the Grotto. Curious, he went to check out the mysterious dirge coming from the woods.

Arriving at the entrance of the Grotto cave, Singleton discovered a young man sitting on the wall that separates the small brook from the Grotto altar. Notably, Singleton recounts, the man was playing the flute in a way that seemed to separate him from the world that he was in. But this was not a man of our time. Wearing older clothing, including a pair of green overalls, the young man looked to be out of the mid-19th century rather the mid-80's. After complementing the young man on his impressive musical talents, Singleton did not garner a verbal response, but rather a stare from the flutist before returning to his musical talents. Singleton at the time did not think anything of the man and continued with his hike to the lookout. But on his way back down the mountain later that morning, Singleton discovered an empty worship space with no flute music and more importantly, no young man.

Years later, Singleton is convinced that he had a run-in with a ghost from the school's past, a run-in with Lawrence Dielman. The son of the successful composer and Mount music professor, Henry Dielman, Lawrence had been raised in music, being tutored in the classics and his father's favorite instrument, the flute. So devoted to the instrument, Henry would play the flute during Christmas time in the hills surrounding

the school to mysteriously entertain the students and faculty of the college. Henry and Lawrence eventually had a falling out surrounding musical differences, specifically over Lawrence's growing admiration for the popular instrument of the time, the fiddle. Henry Dielman died in 1882 and with so much regret surrounding their growing apart, Lawrence went on to play the flute in front of his father's grave every Christmas until his own death in 1923. From this, many, including Singleton, believe that Lawrence still roams the grounds of the Grotto and the cemetery (of which both Dielmans are buried in) playing the flute, especially around Christmastime.

The story of the Dielmans as well as many other stories are documented in Singleton's book. The recounting of these stories is presented by the means of an anthology of experiences and biographies of the people who have had an important impact on Mount St. Mary's. Stories include those of John Dubois, the founder of the school, John La Farge, the famed 19th Century stain glass artist and alumnus, Blessed Stanley Rother, a seminarian who was martyred in Guatemala in 1981, Peter Rono, the schools most famous Olympian who won the gold medal for the 1500-meter run at the Seoul Olympics in 1988 and the current president, Dr. Timothy Trainor, who saw the further development of the school in the 21st Century.

Among the books' heroes and the stories recounted in it is that of the Blessed Mother, whom Sin-



For years, Lawrence Dielman would play the flute on Christmas Eve next to his parents' graves on the hillside above St. Anthony's church. Today, legend has it that on a quiet Christmas Eve, you can still hear his music reverberate in the valley below.

gleton believes is the reason for the Mount's destiny and success. Being the 2nd oldest Catholic college in the United States and the oldest in the 50 states outside of Georgetown, Mount St. Mary's has long admired Mary amongst the millions of Catholics around the world for centuries. Singleton also notes in the book that Mount St. Mary's is the first institute of higher learning in the country to be named after a woman, a move by John Dubois that was very courageous and progressive for the early 19th Century.

Further inspiration for writing the book in the first place for

Singleton was the lack of historical writing surrounding the institution to begin with. In fact, "The Meaning of Mount St. Mary's" is one of only two collections of historical moments and stories about the school in its more than two century existence. With the last publication of the school's history coming in 1911, with the publishing of the two volume and 77 chapters of "The Story of the Mountain: Mount St. Mary's College and Seminary." The older writing, written by Edward McSween and Mary Meline, chronicles in-depth the story of the college from its inception until its centennial in 1908. But the lack of a written history is what Singleton notes as his initial inspiration for his writing, as he cites the plethora of historic writing surrounding other Catholic higher institutions of learning at schools like Notre Dame.

Biblical realism and Catholic mythos are also reasoning that Singleton believes, are reasons why the history of the Mount and its mission should be told and remembered. "The creative journey of Mount St. Mary's is deeply connected to Catholic mythology and Biblical reality. The apparitions at Lourdes took place in a cave. The birth and resurrection of Christ came about in a cave."

On Tuesday, October 15th, Singleton, in accordance with the University, will teach a seminar on his book and the legends that surround the school open to both students and the public. The workshop will take place from 7-9p.m. virtually through the Mount St. Mary's Division of Continuing Studies. If interested in learning more about Singleton's endeavors in unraveling the history of the Mount, access the following link to Mount St. Mary's Center for Lifelong Learning and scroll down to find Singleton's course: [www.learn.msmary.edu](http://www.learn.msmary.edu).

"The Mount is the Mother of Catholic education in the United States. That is a mythological fact," says Singleton. More information will be available about the seminar as the event comes closer.



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# TANEYTOWN HISTORY

## Gettysburg: A twist of fate in the Civil War

David Buie

The Battle of Gettysburg, fought from July 1 to July 3, 1863, remains one of the most pivotal clashes in the American Civil War. Yet, history often overlooks the significant role Taneytown, Maryland, played in the events leading up to this momentous battle. Union General George Gordon Meade, newly appointed commander of the Army of the Potomac, originally envisioned a different strategy that could have shifted the battleground closer to Taneytown. As Gettysburg attracts thousands of tourists annually, Taneytown should seize this opportunity to highlight its historical importance and capitalize on the tourism dollars flowing into Gettysburg. Taneytown can transform its local culture and economy by leveraging its rich Civil War heritage.

General Meade's original plan, the Pipe Creek Circular, aimed to establish a solid defensive line along Pipe Creek in Maryland. This strategic move was designed to lure Confederate General Robert E. Lee into a more favorable position for the Union forces. If this plan had been executed, the central conflict might have occurred around Taneytown, making it a critical point in Meade's defensive strategy. Instead, campaign dynamics and Confederate movements led to the historic clash at Gettysburg, which naturally drew both armies due to its strategic geography and road network.

Today, Gettysburg's historical significance draws tourists worldwide, generating substantial revenue and fostering a thriving local economy. However, Taneytown's role in the Civil War remains a largely untapped resource that could significantly boost its economic prospects. By promoting its historical connection to the Battle of Gettysburg, Taneytown can

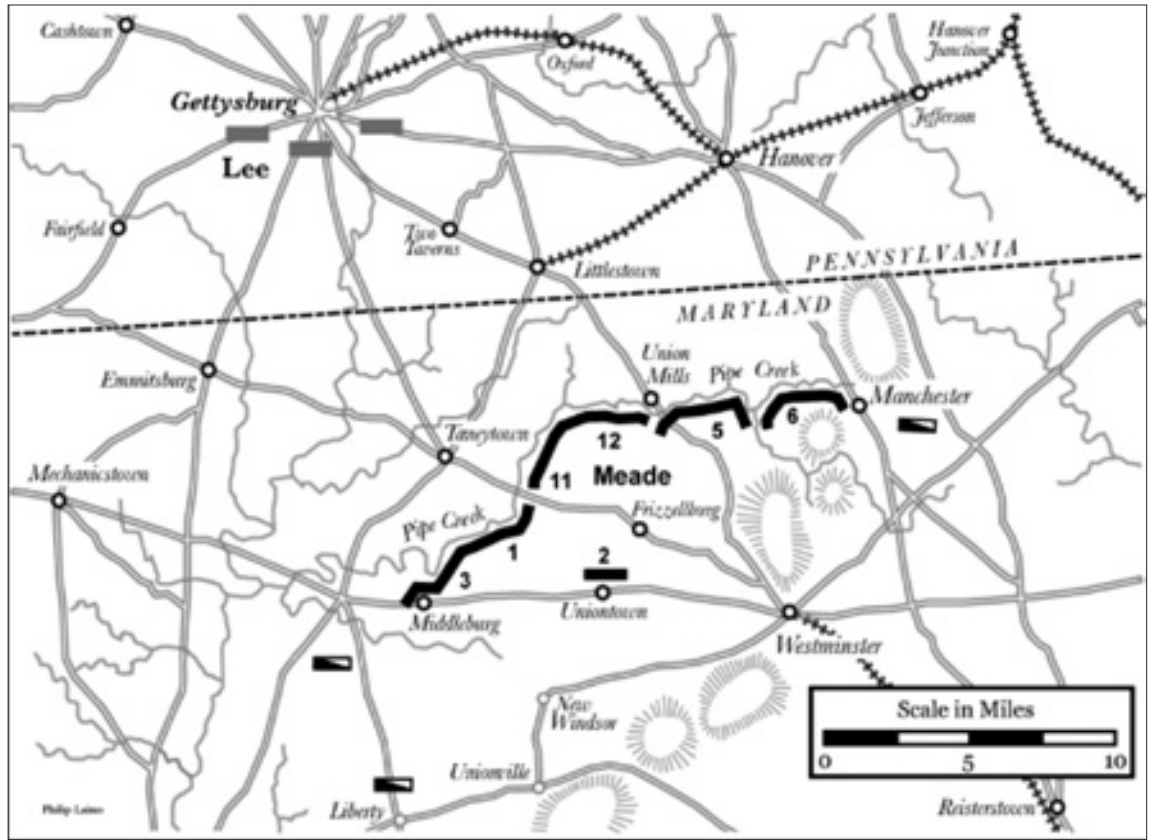
attract Civil War enthusiasts, historians, and tourists eager to explore the broader narrative of the conflict.

On June 30, 1863, just before the Battle of Gettysburg, Meade positioned his troops south of Big Pipe Creek, preparing for a defensive stand against Lee's advancing forces. Corps commanders were assigned positions along this line by July 1. Taneytown was at the heart of these preparations, with Meade ordering his engineers to lay a defensive line along the high ground east of Big Pipe Creek from Manchester to Middleburg in Carroll County. This critical positioning highlighted Taneytown's strategic importance during the campaign.

Despite these plans, the Pipe Creek Line became a historical footnote. The Union's decision to advance to Gettysburg was influenced by General John Reynolds, who sought to defend his home state of Pennsylvania. Reynolds advanced his corps to Gettysburg, where he was killed on July 1, igniting a battle that Meade could not abandon. Over the next three days, intense fighting ensued at critical locations such as Devil's Den, Little Round Top, Cemetery Hill, and Culp's Hill, culminating in the disastrous Pickett's Charge on July 3, which led to a Confederate retreat.

If Meade's original plan had prevailed, the monumental battle and subsequent events, including President Lincoln's famous address, might have been associated with Taneytown. Imagine the historical and economic impact of the "Taneytown Address" instead of the Gettysburg Address. Such a reimagining underscores the potential Taneytown holds in Civil War history.

Taneytown's connection to these historical events provides a unique opportunity to attract tourists. The town can develop museums, guided tours, and edu-



General Meade's Big Pipe Creek defense line which he hoped would lure General Lee onto more favorable ground for the Union efforts to stop Lee's advance on Washington from the North.

cational programs focusing on Meade's strategic planning and the significance of the Pipe Creek Circular. Highlighting Taneytown's role can create a compelling narrative that complements the Gettysburg experience, offering tourists a broader understanding of the Civil War's intricacies.

The economic benefits of tapping into this tourism market are substantial. Increased visitor numbers can boost local businesses, create jobs, and generate revenue that can be reinvested in the community. Additionally, partnerships with Gettysburg's established tourism infrastructure can foster cross-promotion and shared events, enhancing

the appeal of both locations.

To achieve this, Taneytown must actively market its historical significance. Collaborating with historians, Civil War reenactment groups, and tourism experts can help craft engaging and informative visitor experiences. Investment in infrastructure, such as interpretive centers and heritage trails, will further enhance Taneytown's appeal as a tourist destination.

Taneytown's growing population and the community's need for economic revitalization make this a timely and viable strategy. By embracing its historical legacy, Taneytown can ensure a prosperous future while honoring the

sacrifices and strategic decisions that shaped American history.

Though often overshadowed by Gettysburg, Taneytown's role in the Civil War is vital to the conflict's story. By capitalizing on this heritage, Taneytown can draw tourism dollars, invigorate its local economy, and offer visitors a richer, more comprehensive understanding of the Civil War. Now is the time for Taneytown to step into the historical Spotlight and claim its rightful place alongside Gettysburg in the annals of American history.

To read past editions of Taneytown History, visit the History section of Emmitsburg.net.

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# COOKING

## Cookouts and pool parties

Sonya Verlaque  
FCC Culinary Program

Sonya Verlaque

Although summer is supposed to be time to relax, I feel like we are pulled in so many directions with activities and gatherings with friends. Often times, this comes with relying on pre-packaged food and snacks while being on-the-go. Frederick Community College has also launched their Culinary Medicine class for the summer, which has been fun and eye opening the last several weeks and we have been learning how to better read labels and make enjoyable, lower salt and sugar meals. Thanks to my classmate, Krystal Francis for this gem.

### BBQ Chicken and healthy BBQ Sauce

#### Ingredients

1 large onion, chopped  
3 cloves garlic, minced  
1 cup low sodium tomato sauce  
¾ cup water, divided  
¼ cup maple syrup  
1 tbs molasses  
2 tbs apple cider vinegar  
1 tbs balsamic vinegar  
1 ½ tsp smoked paprika  
¼ tsp chili powder  
2 tsp soy sauce

1 tsp of black pepper  
⅛ tsp cayenne pepper  
⅛ tsp liquid smoke  
Zest of 1 orange

Sauté onions until very slightly caramelized, about 5 minutes. Add garlic and cook, stirring constantly, for about 1 minute until fragrant. Add ¼ cup of the water and stir to deglaze pan.

Add all the remaining ingredients. Stir well to combine. Lower to a simmer and let cook 5 minutes. Remove from heat and let cool 15 minutes in room temp or in fridge for faster cool down. Transfer to a blender, and blend until smooth.

Trim Fat from chicken thighs, coat with ¾ of bbq sauce and let marinate for 15 min. Transfer to pan and bake at 375F for 30-40 min until internal temp of 175. Remove and coat with reserved BBQ sauce.

### Easy Chicken Salad

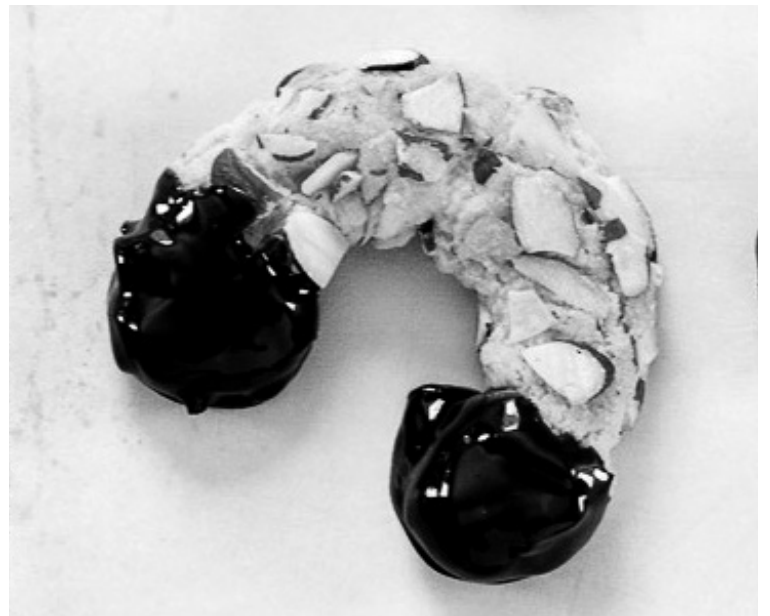
My husband does not like celery so I leave it out, sometimes for additional sweetness, you can add in raisins or dried cranberries. The nice thing about deli salads in general, is that you can add what is left in your pantry. I like to use something sweet, something crunch and some fresh herb. Toasting the nuts in a pan really

enhances the flavor and also adds a stronger crunch. Using plain yogurt also increases the protein and reduces the amount of fat because you can decrease the mayo. Herbs like parsley, dill or tarragon are a great way to bring in freshness as well as additional phytonutrients.

#### Ingredients:

1 lb cooked chicken 3 cups cubed  
¾ cup 3 large celery stalks diced  
¼ cup red onion finely chopped  
¼ cup parsley or dill finely chopped (optional)  
1 cup pecans or almonds  
½ cup plain yogurt 2+% fat  
¼ cup mayo I used avocado oil mayo  
2 tsp Dijon mustard  
1 tsp any vinegar except balsamic  
½ tsp salt  
Ground black pepper to taste

Instructions: In a small skillet, add pecans and toast on low-medium heat until fragrant and brown-ish, stirring often. You'll know they are done because the will start to smell fragrant. Transfer to a cutting board, let cool a bit and chop coarsely. In a medium bowl, add toasted pecans, chicken, celery, onion, parsley, yogurt, mayo, mustard, vinegar. Then give the salad a taste, depending on the herbs and onion you may want less salt or even none. Then add pepper also to taste. Stir gently to mix. Refrigerate for at least 2 hours as salad tastes best cold. Serve with greens, quinoa,



Chocolate Dipped Almond Horn Cookies

brown rice or make a chicken salad sandwich with whole wheat bread. Store in an airtight container for up to 5 days, and when taking to the pool or a picnic be sure to pack in a chilled cooler.

### Chocolate Dipped Almond Horn Cookies

Dear reader, I apologize for this article being chicken heavy. Please accept these naturally gluten free cookies as a penance. I learned to ride a horse when I was 42 years old, thanks to the editor of this paper - Mike Hillman, then I joined some other middle aged women on a dude ranch a few years later to ride mustangs and try our hand a cattle driving. I only survived because of Ibuprofen and these cookies that were served every lunch and dinner, and I would grab extra off the buffet to eat around the ranch. It took some detective work, but I found the recipe. Almond paste is not always in all grocery stores, so you may have to hunt and gather for it

- but I promise they are worth it.

#### Ingredients

7 ounces almond paste torn into 1" chunks  
½ cup finely ground almond flour  
⅓ cup granulated sugar  
1 large egg white  
pinch salt  
1 cup sliced almonds, coarsely chop  
½ cup semi-sweet baking wafers or chocolate chips  
1 tsp coconut oil



Instructions: Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Line a rimmed baking sheet with a silicone baking mat or parchment paper. In the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment, add the almond paste, almond flour, granulated sugar, egg white and pinch of salt. Beat on low just until the mixture comes together a bit, then beat on medium low until well combined. Place the sliced almonds in a bowl. Using a 1 ½" cookie scoop, form the dough into balls (about 1 ½ tablespoons per cookie) and place into the bowl with the sliced almonds.

The dough is sticky, so roll in the sliced almonds until the dough is coated with almonds so it will keep the dough from sticking to your hands. Roll the dough into a log between your hands until it's about 4" long. If necessary, roll the dough in the sliced almonds once again to coat and place on the prepared baking sheet and shape into a crescent. Repeat with the remaining dough, placing cookies 1-2" apart. Bake for 12-14 minutes, rotating the pan halfway through baking time, until golden brown.

Remove from heat and cool completely on a wire rack. Place the chocolate chips or baking wafers and oil in a microwave safe bowl. Heat for 20-30 second increments, stirring well each time until the chocolate is completely melted, or use a double boiler if you prefer. Dip the ends of each cookie in the chocolate and place on the silicone or parchment lined baking sheet until the chocolate has set. Store cookies in an airtight container at room temperature for up to 1 week.

To read other cooking articles, visit the Authors section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).

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# MOMS' TIME OUT

## The summer cycle

Mary Angel

It is summertime, that moment the kids have been waiting for. They have been chomping at the bit for months, insisting they will not make it to the end of the school year. It is finally here! So, now what?

In January the tone is very solemn. The kids have come off a the great high known as Winter Break! The week in January is mediocre as they can tell all their friends about the gifts they got over the holidays. By the second week they are reminiscing about what it was like to sleep in all morning long. There were no alarms, no parents screaming you overslept, you're going to be late for school. It was truly magical. By the end of January, they can't even remember what it was like to be off school, to sleep in.

When February arrives, they are sure they will never make it to the end of the school year. "How can the days be moving so slow" and "Will summer ever get here", can be heard filling the hallways. I overheard a conversation that went something like this, "You've got this, it is only a few weeks until spring break". I am not sure the friend on the other end of the phone was convinced they were actually going to make it to spring break.

Spring break came and went, and although it is always enjoyed, it seems very short and very far from the end of the school year. In a flash, the misery begins again (complete with moaning). My idle attempts to remind them, that they only have two and a half months left until summer break, fell on deaf ears.

April and May are uneventful from a day off school standpoint. Each day seemed to be a little more of a grind for the kids, but those little troopers trudged through (a dash of sarcasm!). By the time June was on the horizon, they could taste their freedom. That feeling was always followed by a twinge of something small nagging at them. Once the seniors left the high school, everything became a little more lackadaisical.

That last week and a little bit seems to be more of a get ready for finals and relax time period. I heard more about what snack was needed for this class and that one, than homework and studying. After a countdown of days every day for the last 10 and a half of the school year, it was finally time. The excitement was in the air!

For that first week, or so, there were smoothie bowls with this friend, a sleepover with these girls, and a movie afternoon with that one. The fun train had left the station and was cruising along at a good clip. By the end of the second week, I started to hear moans of, "I'm bored!" To which I quickly replied, "I don't want to hear it, find something to do." They weren't often but give me a break. This is when I came to my senses and left a chore list. Whenever I got a call at work about boredom, or woe is me, bam let me give you something to do.

Don't get me wrong, some of the items were more fun than others, like washing the car. Some of the chores would even garner a little spending money for the summer. Best of all

it cut back on the number of "I'm Bored" phone calls at work. After the first call I helped her make a list of fun things to do throughout the summer when she is feeling extra bored. We also discussed embracing boredom, because when school starts back up, she might miss a little boredom.

As July approaches there are camps and sleepovers to look forward to. The first week of July there is a mission's camp she will go on. She will be both excited and apprehensive at the thought of going somewhere new and meeting new people. The days leading up to the departure I will get a mix of "I am so excited" and "I don't want to go". If history tells me anything she will return sad that it is all over, with memories to last a lifetime.

After the week of camp, the cycle will return to complaints of boredom and always looking for the next adventure. Towards the end of the month my daughter has a three-week camp that she will be working at, and it will run into August. She is once again excited and apprehensive. She has never done a camp this long and she does get home sick pretty easily. The good news is that she will come home on weekends.

This year there will be very little break between the last camp and our staycation, so no time to be bored. Staycation week is always a blast at my house. The kids love it, even the adult

ones take off work to join us. This is the first year that one of my older ones has a work conflict for part of the week, so I will let you know how that goes. There is nothing but excitement surrounding staycation, from our family Olympics to a scavenger hunt, and theater to a little history. This is my favorite week of the summer!

After our staycation there will once again be a low point. After all, our staycation is a lot like a summer break from the boredom and the day-to-day activities. All of the kids will be a little melancholy at the thought of returning to work and chores (so will I for that matter). My daughter will try and squeeze in as much friend time and sleeping in as she can before school starts back up. She will schedule a few more sleepovers, some lunch dates, and occasionally she might even come to work and bring her old mom a treat!

With all of her complaining about being bored, as the new school year looms on the horizon, she will drag her feet trying to slow time down. Two weeks out she will talk about missing her friends that she only sees at school, and maybe even missing some teachers (but don't tell her I said that). One week until school starts, she will commiserate over how quickly the summer flew by and how she didn't get to do all the things she had planned. Suddenly it will be the night before her senior year and she will be a combination of sad, nauseous, and maybe



5% excited all rolled into one. I guess being bored is still better than being in school. This my friends is the summer cycle and all of my kids have gone through some form of it since the beginning of school. Hopefully they

have learned, even just a tiny bit, to enjoy the good times while they last!

To read past editions of Moms' Time Out, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.



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Darlene Grube      Proverbs 31: 10-31



# WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO THE MEN WHO ...

*This month, we continue with our tradition of using the July edition of the paper to remember the forgotten signers of the Declaration of Independence—and on a special "almost signer" who had a great impact on our country at its founding!*

## Sophomore

Richard Henry Lee

Gracie Smith  
MSMU Class of 2027

“To say that a bad government must be established for fear of anarchy is really saying that we should kill ourselves for fear of dying.”

This was said by a man named Richard Henry Lee, a forgotten signer of the Declaration of Independence. Best known as a planter, merchant, and politician, Lee was a prominent member of the Lee family of Virginia. Perhaps you've heard of another prominent member of the Lee family - Robert E. Lee.

Richard, continuing his father Thomas' legacy, had desires for westward expansion and was a key political figure during the American Revolution. For instance, it was Richard Lee who made the motion to declare independence from Britain at the Second Continental Congress in 1776; this became known as the Lee Resolution. While Lee is viewed as a very controversial historical figure, his influence on the state of Virginia and how it is today cannot be ignored. For this, it places him high on the list of

America's forgotten signers.

The Lee Resolution was quite possibly the one thing that made America the way that it is today. That is to say, a free nation. Without Lee's proposal of this idea to the Continental Congress, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, and many others would not have had a basis for even writing our world-renowned Declaration of Independence.

On June 7, 1776, Richard Henry Lee introduced the resolution “that these united colonies are and of right ought to be free and independent states,” acting under the instruction of the Virginia Convention. The Lee Resolution contained three parts: a declaration of independence, a call to form foreign alliances, and “a plan for confederation”. All of this coming from the National Archives.

A few days after Lee's proposal, Congress appointed three concurrent committees in response to the Lee Resolution: one to draft a declaration of independence, a second to draw up a plan “for forming foreign alliances,” and a third to “prepare and digest the form of a confederation.”

Since many members of Congress believed the actions that Lee proposed to be premature or wanted instructions from their colonies before voting, approval was deferred until July 2. On

that day, Congress adopted the first part (the declaration). The words of the Lee Resolution are echoed in the Declaration of Independence.

Not only was Lee a huge part of the creation of the declaration, but his brother Francis Lightfoot Lee was also one of the signers. Richard and Francis are the only siblings to have been in attendance during the establishment of our declaration, and the only siblings to be documented signers.

All of this said, what did Richard Lee do? Yes, he is responsible for the Lee Resolution... but who was he? Born to an aristocratic family in Stratford, VA, Lee set sail on a very academically oriented path. He attended a private in England, later returning to his home in Virginia in 1751. After forming a militia troop of young men from his town, Lee was appointed Justice of the Peace in 1757. During this time, Justices of the Peace were commissioned to handle minor civil and criminal cases. Shortly thereafter, Lee was elected to the Virginia House of Burgesses. Years following, in 1774, he was elected to attend the first Continental Congress. Noted for his oratory skills, this was where he offered the Resolutions for Independence to the committee of the whole in 1776. He served in Congress through the course of the

Revolutionary War while also serving in the House of Burgesses. In 1783 he was selected as president of Congress.

Lee opposed the federal constitution, as he favored strong state rights. This was not an uncommon point of view for someone from the South to have, especially Virginia. He was, however, elected the first State Senator from Virginia under the new federal government. He retired from that office to his home in Chantilly due to illness, and soon after died at the age of 62.

It is safe to say that Richard Lee was a very well-rounded character when it came to politics. That is to say, he had experience on top of the courage to voice his desires and ideas. This was something that made Richard Lee different from the other forgotten signers. Not only did Lee have the courage to speak his mind, he had the courage to suggest independence from Britain. If Lee had not done this, there is no guarantee that our declaration would be the way it is today, or if there would even be a declaration.

As a History Major, this idea is very jarring to entertain. I can't help but contemplate our nation under British rule, or perhaps a free nation without a declaration. Is it possible that our founding fathers and the forgotten signers would have chosen a different govern-

ment structure? Perhaps the New Jersey Plan and the Virginia Plan would have had more of a profound effect on our nation. If the Virginia Plan was chosen wouldn't it be reasonable to assume that the Civil War wouldn't have occurred? That is to say, if everything is left to the states, the idea of the “Union” wouldn't exist. Now the New Jersey Plan is the opposite. Wouldn't it be reasonable to assume that our nation would be dangerously close to a socialist or communist nation as time went on and we continued to grow? The idea of equal representation would continue to become more and more impossible, leaving a rather significant amount of power to each state representative.

I suppose this brings me back to Richard Lee, who is responsible for proposing the idea of our freedom. After analyzing the significance of the Lee Resolution we, Americans, can better appreciate Lee's courage and desires for our nation. This Fourth of July let us remember the sacrifices people have made for our prosperous nation. This Fourth of July let us celebrate those responsible for what we have today.

*To read other articles by Gracie Smith, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net*

## Junior

Carter Braxton

Devin Owen  
MSMU Class of 2026

More often than not, we associate the Independence Day holiday with cookouts, beer, partying, red/white/blue color schemes, and days at the pool. I myself am not innocent in this either; the Fourth of July holiday has always been celebrated with water slides, outdoor games, big get-togethers and barbecues in the front yard of my childhood home or that of a friend's. There are so many fond memories I have of spending the holiday partying with family and friends since childhood. Unfortunately, it seems that I haven't put enough focus on the true meaning of this holiday. The ‘Fourth of July’ is the day in which America gained its independence is it not? When did the day become the National Day of Summer drinking and at-home festivals? We all celebrate in different ways; however, we must not forget the importance of this day and what it means for our nation!

In line with the forgotten, the motivation for this month's article is to remind us of those who signed the Declaration of Independence, whose names we might not know. Contrary to popular belief, there was more signers than just Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, John Hancock, and Benjamin Franklin. Let us give the credit where it is due!

Let's set the scene: 1736 in Newington Plantation Virginia, a baby boy by the name of Carter Braxton was born into immense wealth and a family that would quickly be broken apart as death targeted his parents in the earlier years of his life. Even without their parents by their side, the Braxton boys lived very lavishly in their youth—leading to the large

debts that they would each carry through adulthood. Although their spending habits led to debt, it is not to say that the Braxton brothers were uneducated, especially Carter. In his early adult years, Carter attended the College of William and Mary, a prestigious institution located in Williamsburg, Virginia.

While in university, Carter was married to Judith Robinson in July 1755, at the age of nineteen. The couple would go on to have two daughters together by December 1757. Unfortunately, Judith passed during childbirth with their second daughter at this time, leaving Carter absolutely devastated. So overcome with grief from the loss of his love, he traveled to Europe for two years, unable to spend the time in the home which they shared. Upon his return, Carter went on to marry Elizabeth Corbin on May 15th, 1760. This union brought forth an additional sixteen children to the Braxton family: ten sons and six daughters, leading to a total of eighteen children sired by Carter Braxton.

Now that we have some knowledge of his personal life, let's move on to his career and his role in the gaining of independence for America. Carter Braxton was a cultivator and trader of tobacco—a popular option for trade during the time—and was also considered a merchant given the nature of his occupation. Come the year 1761, he was the representative of King William County in the House of Burgess. Most notably though, Braxton was a member of the Continental Congress, having been elected on December 15th, 1775.

Ironically, Braxton was not originally a supporter of independence for the colonies. In fact, he was entirely against it for a time. He even goes so far as to say: “Independence is in truth an elusive bait which men inconsiderably catch at, without knowing the hook to which it is attached” in a pamphlet he wrote and published in 1776 (DSDI). It was not until late in the

spring of 1776 that Braxton began his advocacy for independence; thus, leading to his signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 2nd of the same year.

As mentioned earlier, Braxton and his brother lived lavishly in their youth. Although he played part in America's gaining of Independence from Britain, Carter Braxton was not perfect by any means. This lavish and wealthy lifestyle spoken of having led to the debt in which he faced in his adulthood. Encyclopedia Virginia emphasized that “even after selling land to satisfy some of his many creditors, he owned more than 12,000 acres and about 165 slaves during the 1770's.” However, Braxton was said to have lost nearly all of his wealth during the American Revolution through his support of the Union and the attack by the British forces. In addition to this, it was said that Braxton considered investing in the Slave Trade during the 1760's—prior to his attempts to pay off his debts—but the Brown Brothers chose to proceed on their own, without the financial investments of Carter Braxton.

Here comes the irony into play yet again! Come the spring of the year 1776, when his support and advocacy of independence begins, Braxton invests a great deal of his remaining wealth into the American Revolution, now in favor of America gaining its freedom and liberty for all. I must say, that may have been his best investment thus far into his life. With the result of the revolution being what it was, Braxton's money seemed to be well spent!

Carter Braxton was much more than just a signer of the Declaration of Independence, he was also a merchant, a member of the Continental Congress, a scholar, a William and Mary graduate, a representative in the House of Burgess, a slave-owner, an orphan, a husband, a father, a son, and so much more! His life seems to be so incredibly filled with

adventure and the ups-and-downs which we would expect reality to bring. Survived by his children, Braxton's time on Earth came to an end at just sixty-one years of age on October 10th, 1797, in Richmond, Virginia. While he may be gone, let us all hope that he is never forgotten.

The purpose of this month's article in Four Years at The Mount was to give a

story back to the name; to both remember and reintroduce the forgotten. While not much has been said about the Declaration of Independence in this article, a forgotten signer of said document is invited to be remembered throughout it.

*To read other articles by Devin Owen, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.*



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# ... SIGNED THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE?

## Senior

William Williams

Dolores Hans  
MSMU Class of 2025

The autumn breeze drifts through the cracks in the floorboards and the whistle of the wind signals all who listen that the seasons have changed. A young man sits in a sacred room, gazing out the window at a tree beneath an overcast sky, wondering what will become of him throughout all the seasons yet unchanged. This young man doesn't know it yet, but he will soon be a man of vast knowledge and unwavering faith, the son of a minister, a Harvard-law graduate at 20 years old, but what happens after could not have been something conceived, let alone planned for young William Williams.

William comes from a line of men in ministry, so he studied theology and law and planned to become a minister as well. However, after he successfully embarks from Harvard, William finds himself unable to pursue his plans of becoming a minister, as the French and Indian War takes head.

In order to be beside his beloved uncle, William signs up to engage in the fight

near Lake George. This fight wearied and consumed him, his thoughts and emotions flooded by devastation and torment. As a man of faith, it must've been hard to fight for his country by killing others.

William, in the midst of battle, sparks of gunpowder soaring and stinging the crisp air and shouts of men overcoming the howl of the wind, glances over to witness the moment a bayonet meets his uncle's chest, and he falls to the ground in surrender of his soul over to God. From this moment on, William's detest of the British officers grew stronger like a fueled flame.

William eventually returned to Lebanon and opened a store, putting away plans to be a pastor. He is truly reaping the blessings of the Lord when he meets and marries his wife, Mary Trumbull. Mary was twenty-five years of age. Her beloved father was close to Sam Adams and an advisor to George Washington. It pleased William that his wife was as educated and accomplished as he. Their love results in the lives of three children.

As far from he wanted to be from war, he took up a political position as town clerk in Lebanon. Here he served for 44 years. This position began his involvement in the State House of Representatives, and as House Speaker. During this time, his brother-in-law becomes a famous painter

of the American Revolution. William published writings in the press on behalf of the colonists. He housed patriots who were fighting in the war. He raised money to support the cause.

William received news that the delegate to the Continental Congress, Oliver Wolcott, was growing ill and could not continue his role. He was asked to carry on this role in Wolcott's place. William's arrival at congress was past the time of voting for independence, but he had the opportunity to sign the Declaration of Independence. As he stood over the document, looking over the other signatures of those who were founding the independence of our country, William thought of his uncle, of the men who he had seen die, and knew that they had sacrificed something worth it. William knew what it meant to sign the declaration. It meant he would have a target on his back if somehow, they weren't pardoned. But his passion for patriotism, and the memory of those who fought and died for this cause, allowed him to face the prospect of the noose with certainty and serenity.

"In 1779 Williams accepted worthless paper money in exchange for \$2,000 in coin for military supplies. He was said to have remarked that if independence were established, he would get his money back;

if not, the loss would be of no account to him. Some had criticized Williams for resigning his colonelcy of the 12th Militia Regiment at the outbreak of the Revolution in order to accept the election to the Continental Congress. His courage, however, was evidenced in 1781, when word arrived in Lebanon of the traitor Benedict Arnold's raid upon New London" (Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence).

When the traitor Benedict Arnold made an attack, Williams without hesitation rode twenty-three miles on horseback to the site in heroic efforts to aid the town. Tired and afraid, Williams approached the town only to discover he was too late. The picket fences were torched, the screams of families subsided, and the black smoke replaced the view of the clouds in the sky.

From this significant moment until the end of the war, William served on the committee which validated the Articles of Confederation.

In 1810, yet another tragedy befell William. He has faced many challenges and losses, but none so significant and painful than the loss of his own child. Williams' son Solomon died. William was so shocked and distraught by this tragedy, that he never fully recovered. Because of the immense loss he felt, his

emotional, as well as physical wellbeing, changed. His health deteriorated. His voice, which once made independence possible, was lost. He eventually went into a coma, and after four days he mustered enough strength to cry out for his son Solomon to care for him in the house of the Lord, and then, on August 2, 1811, William died.

How amazing William's character was, that he faced so much tragedy and loss, and yet was honorable in deed and firm in his faith until the very end. It is easy to celebrate my independence when I had never been the one to sacrifice or fight for it, but nevertheless I am always grateful for those who made my freedom possible. Because my country is so important to me, I always love learning more about our history. Learning about those who are forgotten, but who did so much for the sake of our happiness, has been a great experience. William inspires me. As someone who is spending time in university, and doesn't know what the future holds for me, I am confident that God has a plan for me, and as long as I am honorable and courageous, my life will amount to something beautiful as well.

To read other articles by Dolores Hans, visit the Authors section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).

## Graduate

Roger Sherman

Claire Doll  
MSMU Class of 2024

It is a challenge to research an individual you know nothing about. It is even harder when history is not your thing at all (shoutout FYATM writer Gracie, our history superstar!). So, when tasked for the third year in a row to choose a forgotten signer of the Declaration of Independence, I found myself sitting in a café in my town, struggling.

"Why do we keep doing this prompt every single year?" I think to myself. But I already know the reason why, a message ingrained in my mind constantly. It's so we don't forget. Or, rather, to revive those who have been forgotten and give them credit hundreds of years later. These are the men who have secured our country, our freedoms. Who are they? Why do they matter?

This year, I decided to go about a different process researching signers. It is very public knowledge that such well-known signers such as George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and James Madison owned slaves. According to The Hill, while you may have seen quotes of the men speaking against slavery, "they never truly ended the practice of slavery in their personal lives" (Austin). While I can acknowledge that these were "the times" of owning slaves, and that the context of the 1700s is vastly different to the context of today, I still firmly desired to write about a signer of the Declaration of Independence that truly understood "independence" in all its capacity. A signer who not only refused to own slaves, but also actively advocated to end slavery. A signer who is forgotten—lost in history—but must be remembered by his beliefs and efforts.

Roger Sherman was born in Newtown, Massachusetts in April 1721 and

was a lawyer. Before signing the document that would essentially create our country, Sherman studied law and became a justice of the peace in Litchfield County, eventually becoming a judge of the superior court. He supported American independence from Britain long before signing the Declaration of Independence, and he even helped draft the Articles of Confederation. In fact, according to Connecticut History, he "is the only person to have signed all four of the most significant documents in our nation's early history: the Continental Congress, the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, and the United States Constitution" (Mangan). Thomas Jefferson even said that Sherman was "a man who never said a foolish thing in his life."

Sherman married his wife, Elizabeth Hartwell, in November 1749 and had seven children, three of whom would serve as officers in the Continental army. However, Sherman's wife soon died in October 1760. Sherman decided to resign and moved to New Haven, where he decided to settle into the life of a merchant. On his way back from a visit to his brother, Sherman passed by Rebecca Prescott, his brother's wife's niece, and began a second courtship, resulting in eight more children. Soon after, Sherman dove back into politics, elected to the General Assembly and appointed justice of peace for New Haven County. Sherman even served as the treasurer of Yale College until 1776.

Sherman is also most remembered for his large part in the Connecticut Compromise, which "gave each state an equal vote in the Senate and assigned seats based on population in the House" (Stoehr, The Editorial Board). Sherman played an integral role in ensuring that the United States would be a two-house law-making body.

Unlike many other signers of the Declaration of Independence, Sherman never owned a slave. In fact, he called

the slave trade "iniquitous" and opposes a tax on slaves. He even contributed to fighting slavery in Connecticut and "eventually eliminated slavery in his home state of Connecticut" (Austin). Biographer Mark David Hall says, that "Sherman consistently opposed slavery because he believed all humans were made in the image of God and must be treated with dignity."

Discovering that someone from the eighteenth century held these beliefs and very much fought for human dignity to its fullest extent is fascinating. It's these progressive efforts that drive our nation throughout history and eventually allow all people, regardless of their race, to achieve true freedom.

So, why did plenty other slaveowners sign the Declaration of Independence? Although Roger Sherman's beliefs were not enough to abolish slavery altogether, he still exists as an opposing opinion to the other men who signed the document. Why was the concept of equality so skewed? How did the Declaration of Independence, which stated that "all men are created equal," defend human freedom without really defending it?

This would be asked again and again throughout history: as America faces the Civil War, the Civil Rights movement, the Black Lives Matter movement. How did this document truly enforce liberty?

Maybe it did, and it didn't. Although the document allowed colonists independence from Great Britain, it did not grant slaves rights. It did not acknowledge their freedom, their equality as people. It also did not acknowledge women, or Native Americans, or those belonging to different religions. The rights of everyone would be fought for—not granted by a document—all throughout history, and still, today.

But Roger Sherman is important. He carries the legacy as a progressive, and because of his name on the document, we know that someone who took part in our nation's early history

did speak out against slavery.

To conclude my last time writing about forgotten signers of the Declaration of Independence (for now), I want to emphasize how important it is to truly reflect on forgotten heroes of our nation's history. Independence Day is honestly one of my favorite holidays; I love the parades, the flying flags, the cookouts. But I also love that we are all

able to come together to not only criticize and acknowledge our nation's rocky history, but also celebrate our progression as a country. I am happy to write about a signer who was actively against slavery, and I am even happier that now, more people know about him.

To read other articles by Claire Doll, visit the Authors section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).



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## CREATIVE WRITING

### Signer's dilemma

Sophi Toth  
Class of 2027

He had left the window open, so the dark summer air was free to permeate his office. The candlelight flickered, sending shadows dancing on the walls. Like puppets, helpless to the whims of their master. Like the subjects of a king, even a mad one.

Stacks of papers overflowed his desk: letters, ideas, documents. He reached down, reopening a newly unsealed envelope and unfolded the paper inside.

He sighed, frowning at his sister's letter that sent his mind spinning even more into conflict. She wrote how dangerous this would be, how mad he would have to be to do it. Let them have their war, she said, but let us be far removed from it, perhaps in Canada. The stench of revolution doesn't carry that far.

She knew that he was pressured to sign Thomas' declaration by his colleagues, but she knew not of his internal conflict. The two halves of his brain seemed to pull in opposite directions, safety and security as opposed to what is right. It was not right to live under a tyrant without complaint, but what about his wife? His children? They didn't deserve to live and grow up during a war because of his decisions. And what

if something happened to them?

The shiver of ice that spliced through his spine forced him to get up, away from that terrible thought. It could never be allowed to happen, not to his children nor his wife. His wife, with her soft hair and goofy smile and quick sense of humor. His three children, their giggles and shouts echoing down the halls and rooms so the whole house was filled with laughter. Nothing could ever happen to his children, the lights of his life, the sweet apples locked away in his heart.

But what kind of world would they grow up in if he didn't do this? If the colonies just allowed their king to rule them without letting them be represented? What problems would they face, what injustices and malice would the tyrant, and tyrants after him, enforce by law? What dangers would they have forced upon them, much worse than having no say in the law? By not acting, would he really be killing them?

He sat back down with a thump. The question hung in his mind, a violet curtain separating the warring questions and worries. Fear and uncertainty dominated both sides, but still raging against each other. Worry for his family, worry for the colonies. To declare independence from England would be the right thing to do for the whole, for the greater good. To have some sense of

autonomy in what laws govern them, to be able to choose who represents them and never not have representation. To not be sentenced to...to...

"Son, this way." His mother said, gesturing. He was small, still a child. He was walking through the streets with his mother, staring wide-eyed at every stranger who passed. Grubby, clean, raggedy, neat, vibrant, dull—every person was different, at yet all the same. His mother led him past the courthouse, where a small crowd was forming on the steps, not more than five people. There was a man laying on the steps, seemingly pushed down by the crowd. A policeman stood by, watching. As he and his mother passed by, the crowd's muted rumble rose to a roar. They started attacking the man, beating him with their fists, kicking him. He never so much as tried to stand up, never fought back, as his bones cracked against stone and his blood smeared on the marble steps. Red warped in front of the vision, dreamlike and hazy.

What the man had done or why he deserved such a harsh fate was never revealed to the little boy hurrying by with his mother. But the admission of guilt was confessed by the man not protesting, not fighting back. He succumb to the justice pressed upon him without a word or a whimper, rolling over and taking the blame and punishment. There was no trial, no sentencing, no votes. Simply taking the responsibility and death.



That's what waits across the sea. There is no fair trial. A king views his subjects, not knowing them, not loving them, and makes a decision based on his mood of the hour. Decisions that can range to a lifetime of luxury or horrible death on a tree. And unless those subjects rebel, the king's decision is law and they remain held fast in his fist. Love of children or women didn't matter if there was no life to love with.

A bright spark of light shook him from his reverie; perhaps he was asleep after all. He rubbed his eyes and searched for the source, finding the sun peeking over the rooftops like a shy baby. Dawn laughed at him, signaling the end of his time. No more stalling. He had to make a choice. He had to take a risk.

He rose from his chair, then went to change. He kissed his wife as he left for the congress. Listened to the arguments, watched as his colleagues wrote their names underneath the declaration of their freedom, that they would no longer sit back and let their lives play out without their say.

He waited his turn, then picked up the quill. Dipped it in ink. Signed his name. The splotches of ink that crawled across the paper condemned thousands to die. While there would be no liberty without risk of death, there was surely going to be death without liberatry.

To read other articles by Sophi, visit the Authors section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).

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# MOUNT SPORTS

## Cricket's rise in the United States

Steve Morano  
MSMU Class of 2024

On Thursday, June 6th, a sporting upset the likes of which hasn't been seen since the United States beat the Soviet Union in Ice Hockey at the 1980 Winter Olympics occurred. Yet, the competition received little fanfare to the magnitude that the event should have brought to the United States. Pakistan, one of the greatest cricketing nations on earth was beat in the second round of the ICC T20 World Cup by the United States for the first time ever. A true David versus Goliath matchup, the team that the United States fielded was made up of software engineers and other white-collar laborers upset a field of professionals at the very height of their sport with Pakistan being listed as No. 7 in the world at T20 Cricket. For a game that attracts little to no media coverage amongst a dominate sports media landscape, the growth of cricket in the United States is expected to grow. But it has been here all along, even from the nations birth.

An English game by birth, cricket has often been referred to as one of the last great vestiges of the vast British Empire. Along with the English language itself, cricket was spread to every corner of the empire and has made an impact on many sporting cultures. It is considered to be the most popular sport in the world. With its popular peaking in the former colonies of the West Indies, New Zealand, Australia, South Africa, India, and Pakistan, cricket world cup matches are some of the most watched sporting events in history, with the 2011 T20 World Cup final between India and Sri Lanka garnering viewership of 558 million people around the world. With viewership like this, a single world cup final typically outwatches the World Series, NBA

Finals, Stanley Cup Finals, and most certainly, the Super Bowl. Only the FIFA World Cup Final is outwatched by more people on Earth, as the 2022 World Cup Final between France and Argentina was watched by 1.5 billion people.

The lack of viewership in the United States is testament to its lack in popularity, where only expatriates of former colonies, children of immigrants, and the more sporting obsessed are up to date on the recent rumblings of the wider cricket world. But it wasn't always like this. A former colony itself, it can be said that cricket fit in well to Colonial America and the early era of the young republic. Virginians and New Englanders played the game on town greens all across their respective colonies and soldiers of the Continental Army played the game during the long winter of 1777-78 at Valley Forge where a avid player of the game by the name of George Washington joined them in their game of wickets.

At the onset of the United States as we know it today, international games between clubs in the U.S. and Canada often crossed the border to play one another as cricket grounds began to spring up all over the northeast. A team sport in an era where games at a team level were in their infancy, cricket occupied a certain position as a gentlemanly game in the wealthier populations of the country. It was only at the beginning and end of the American Civil War that caused the death of the game in the United States as a framework of professionalism and popularization of the game of baseball caused cricket to go behind closed doors of private, well off clubs for the elite. This caused the death of the sport in the United States as international "tests" were held between other former colonies that caused the game to grow elsewhere.



The United States upset Pakistan in the 2024 T20 World Cup while co-hosting the tournament with the West Indies.

While baseball grew as the favorite bat and ball sport of Americans, cricket grew in the late 19th and early 20th century in the colonies of the British Empire, particularly in the Indian subcontinent. The longer, more traditional form of the game known as "Test Cricket", where matches can last up to five days prevailed in England and Australia as the favorite form of the game. But with the implementation of forms of the game known as One Day Internationals and Twenty20 or more simply known as "T20" spread the popularity and accessibility of the game to other nations. This lead to the creation of the Indian Premier League and other like competitions in Pakistan, South Africa, and the West Indies led to more lucrative television packages leading to a growth in the

popularity of the game across the world through the Cricket World Cup and the T20 World Cup.

Popularity through some of the most populace nations in the world led to the 2024 T20 World Cup, which is being cohosted by the United States and various nations in the West Indies in an attempt to more popularize the game to people that have never even paid attention to it. Stadiums in places like Texas, Florida and New York have led to the construction of temporary stands in regular parks across the U.S., including a 34,000-seater, temporarily built stadium in Long Island, New York. This environment that is meant to foster growth in the sport led to the greatest upset in Cricket history, as the United States dramatically tied Pakistan in regulation play and a dagger in the supper over

as the United States outlasted one of the most dominate cricket nations in the world.

With a renaissance in the game in the United States, the aim of the tournament partly hosted in said country is meant to put more eyes on the game domestically. With eh first domestic league in the United States, known as Major League Cricket officially up and running, ut is hard to say that the game will not become popular in the coming decades amongst the sports crazed landscape of North American fandom. But the game itself has a much older origin, only defeated by the rise of America's Pastime, that should not be forgotten.

To read past Mount Sports articles, visit the Current Events section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).

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# LIBRARY NEWS

**Blue Ridge Summit Free Library**  
Mondays – Children’s Story Time from 4 to 5. Children and parents can join us for a weekly story, craft or coloring sheet, or play time. We will be running two identical 30 to minute sessions in an attempt to accommodate busy schedules.

Wednesdays – Coffee Club from 3 to 4, mingle with the gang for coffee, tea, puzzles, board games, coloring books, &c.

Thursdays – Teen’s Night. The community room is reserved for teen use from 4:30 to 6, just hang out or play Wii, play board games, do puzzles, eat snacks, watch movies, make movies, etc.!

Saturdays - Join us at 10:30 for an hour of Story Time and all of its festivities! What could be better than a great book and a fun craft?

The Summit Stitchers Quilt Club meets at 5:30 on July 16. If you have always wanted to learn how to quilt, now is the perfect time to start! The group is currently working on this year’s gorgeous raffle quilt.

The BRS Book Club will meet July 15 at 5.

For more information on the Blue Ridge Summit Free Library

visit [www.fclspa.org](http://www.fclspa.org) or call 717-792-2240.

**Frederick County Regional Library 2024**

Bluey is heading to the Emmitsburg Library for a Summer Bash Party on Wednesday, July 3rd from 11 to 12:30. Celebrate all things Bluey with crafts, games, and activities inspired by the hit TV series. Have you signed up for the Summer Challenge Reading Program? To finish, just read 20 days and win a prize!

We will also have Mermaid Eureka at the library on Tuesday, July 16th from 11 to noon for our Fun Under the Sun Party. Families are invited to this summer beach bash celebration.

Senior Adults are invited to an Aging in Place with Habitat for Humanity program on Monday, July 1st from 1 to 2. Learn about Habitat for Humanity of Frederick County’s home repair services. This program assists homeowners so they can continue to live in safe, decent homes for years to come. Also in July, the library is hosting a Drop-In Tech Café on Tuesday, July 2nd from 5:30 to 7:30 to help you troubleshoot

phone, laptop, tablet digital literacy.

Teen Studio Art Club brings local artists in for workshops on July 9th and 11th from 1 to 2:30. Role Play Game Night continues on Tuesdays from 4:30 to 6:30 and Tween Fiber Arts continues to work on Knitting Thursdays July 11th and 25th from 5:30 to 6:30.

There is something for everyone at the Emmitsburg Library this summer!

Visit the library website at Month Calendar | Frederick County Public Libraries ([library-calendar.com](http://library-calendar.com)) to discover so much more. Any questions, call Emmitsburg Library at 301 600-6329 or Thurmont Regional Library at 301 600-7212.

**Emmitsburg Branch Library**

Mondays, Family Storytime, 10:30 a.m.

Monday, July 1, Senior Café: Aging in Place with Habitat for Humanity Home Repair Program, 1 to 2

Tuesday, July 2, 9, 23, 30: RPG Game Night (Teens), 4:30 to 6:30.

Tuesday, July 2: Adult Drop In Tech Café, 5:30 to 7:30.

Wednesday, July 3: Bluey’s Summer Bash! 11 to 12:30.

Tuesday, July 9: TEEN Studio: Abstract Artists Lab, 1 to 2:30.

Wednesday, July 10: Reading with Heiress – Live Animal Event, 10:30 to 11:30.

Thursday, July 11 & 25: Tween Fiber Arts Workshop. 5:30 to 6:30.

Thursday, July 11: Read to a Therapy Dog WAGS for Hope, 6 to 7.

Tuesday, July 16: Fun Under the Sun with Mermaid Eureka, 11 to noon.

## City of Taneytown Parks and Recreation calendar of events

Independence Day Celebration – July 3, Memorial Park, 6 p.m., fireworks begin at 9:30. Rain date: July 5.

Family Movie Nights In The Park – Memorial Park, July 13 - Mary Poppins, July 27 - Heaven is for Real. All movies begin at 8:30.

Yoga In The Park – July 15, 22, 29, and August 5. Memorial Park, 6 to 7. Free/registration required.

Family Fun Food Truck Fri-

day – July 19, Memorial Park, 5 to 8. Food trucks, games, pony rides, petting zoo, face painting, bounce houses, live music by Bootleg.

Taneytown Artisan Fest – July 20, Memorial Park, 10 to 4. Artisan and craft vendors, kids craft tent, food trucks, musical performances, beer garden.

For more information or to register for these events call 410-751-1100 EXT. 108

Tuesday, July 16: TEEN Studio: Intro to Creating Graphic Novel with Ari Messeca, 1 to 2:30.

Wednesdays, July 17 & 31, Little Gardeners, 10:30 to 11:30.

Thursday, July 18: Disc Golf 101 for Everyone – Celebrating Senior Olympics coming to Emmitsburg! At 10:30.

Thursday, July 18: Maryland Writer’s Association Teen Writer’s Club (Teens), 5:30 to 7.

**Thurmont Regional Library**

Mondays, Preschool Storytime at 10:30.

Tuesdays, Baby Storytime at 10:30.

Wednesdays, Toddler Storytime, at 10:30.

Thursdays. Teen Open Craft Hour at 1.

Monday, July 1: Bling Your Bike at 1.

Tuesday, July 2: Movie and Craft Afternoon: Despicable Me 3 at 1.

Monday, July 8: Teen Record Painting at 6.

Tuesday, July 9: Cow Apprecia-

tion Day at 1.

Wednesday, July 10: Offsite: Thorpewood Community Day, Wednesday, July 10 (1 day only, 10 to 1), 12805-A Mink Farm Road • Thurmont

Wednesday, July 10: A Conversation on International Affairs with Shaun Donnelly at 7.

Thursday, July 11: Musical Performer Mr. Lilo at 6:30.

Saturday, July 13: R.E.A.D.\* with Wags for Hope at 11:30.

Monday, July 15: Teen Yarn Art at 6.

Tuesday, July 16: Olympic Summer Flags! at 1.

Wednesday, July 17: Tween/Teen: The Art Zoo, at 3.

Monday, July 22: GO Team Therapy Dogs at 6.

Tuesday, July 23: Bubble, Bubble, Pop! A Bubble Party at 1

Thursday, July 25: Tween Trivia Night: Marvel Universe at 6

Saturday, July 27: Reading with Heiress- Live Animal Event at 11

Tuesday, July 30: Awesome Animal Ambassadors- A show, tell, and touch experience at 1

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# SCHOOL NEWS

## Frederick County Public Schools

**Karen Yoho**  
Board of Education

While FCPS students' last day was June 7 and things might seem quieter around the school system, there is still a lot of activity occurring during the summer. As soon as the students leave, the teachers finish packing up their rooms and the custodians begin weeks of cleaning classrooms.

Curriculum writing began the last week of June and will continue into July at Oakdale High School. Teachers of all levels and subjects will work collaboratively to create curriculum to be used with students to enhance lessons.

Congratulations to the Substi-

tute of the Year, Gregory Biggs. Mr. Biggs was nominated by Hillcrest Elementary. He has been a substitute since 2018. When asked about how he connects with students, Mr. Biggs shared, "The more you can make them laugh and build that connection, those students start to believe they belong. I would say the same for students who struggle but want to learn. Building that connection is imperative to building up their self-esteem and confidence." Congratulations, Mr. Biggs. Thank you for all you do for the students of FCPS.

According to the FCPS website, Frederick County Public Schools is pleased to announce that the Middletown Middle School Stu-

dent Government has been named the recipient of the 2024 Frederick County Public Schools Superintendent's Cup, making Middletown the first middle school to win the award.

Middletown Middle School raised an impressive \$11,515 for Sleep in Heavenly Peace by organizing fundraiser events and through the matching donation of Installers DMV. Additionally, students and their families worked with the non-profit to build and assemble beds, and students made and donated 20 blankets. The Middletown team was also able to give back to their peers by using the fundraising activities to highlight the connection between stress and getting enough sleep. The

efforts of students like those of Middletown Middle School help make Frederick County a great place to live and learn.

The Board of Education reached agreement with all three of our bargaining units. The signings took place at the June 12 Board of Education meeting. We appreciate the hard work of all members of the negotiation teams, especially during these tight budget times.

Speaking of the budget, when we learned in April the school system would receive \$50 million less than our requests, we knew there would be many difficult decisions that needed to be made. Because about 85 percent of the budget is salaries and benefits, that leaves "people and programs" from which to lower our budget amounts.

Through weeks of working with the Superintendent as she directed the staff, the Board arrived at a balanced budget on June 12. This is our legal and fiduciary responsibility. The budget will be finalized on June 26 and sent to the County Executive before submission to the state by June 30.

The Board had no other course but to make painful decision to cut programs and unfilled positions. We now look to the future where the fiscal picture is not rosy. We will, however, continue to work with our local, state, and federal partners, as well as the community, to provide the best education possible to all of the nearly 48,000 students of FCPS.

The Board wishes a safe and relaxing summer to all.

## Fairfield School Board supports unpaid leave policy

After months of discussion, Fairfield Area School District's Board of Directors learned teachers are not as worried about a proposed uncompensated leave policy as they suspected.

During their June meeting, Superintendent Thomas Haupt told the board he asked the teachers for feedback on the policy as they directed him to do in May. Haupt believes staff should not be taking uncompensated leave when they have paid leave days to use.

Previously, staff members were allowed to request unpaid leave through the district's human resources management software. In February, staff were told they must directly converse with their supervisor before requesting unpaid leave.

"As an employer, we should expect staff to be present,"

Haupt said.

Teachers earn 10 sick days and four personal days, Haupt said. Support staff receive 10 sick days and two personal days.

Haupt clarified that he has no plans to deny people leave for "life events" such as family weddings. He is concerned, however, about staff members who consistently take vacations that could be scheduled during breaks. Haupt added uncompensated leave could affect teachers' retirement benefits because such periods are not calculated when determining years of service.

Haupt said thirty-three staff members responded to his solicitation for feedback. Haupt said most of the comments he heard from staff focused on the proposed policy being applied equitably to all employees. Haupt stressed that the importance

of establishing the policy is to ensure one rule applies to all employees.

Other staff members told Haupt they either supported the policy or had no opinion. Some, Haupt said, were appalled that staff members are currently allowed to take uncompensated leave before exhausting all of their paid leave.

"I honestly would have thought that guidelines like this were already in place. I assumed unpaid leave was a last resort that was granted with approval if deemed necessary," one staff member commented on the anonymous survey.

Board Member Lisa Sturgis, a former district teacher, has been one of the most vocal opponents of the proposed policy. After hearing teachers' feedback, she now supports it.

"It is hard to argue against it," she said. "They had an opportunity to make comments on it."

Since beginning his job in 2021, Haupt has commented

several times that the district's policies must be clear and uniformly enforced so all staff are treated the same and administrators are not put in a position where they are being subjective.

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# ARTS

## Summer classic movies continue at the Majestic

Gettysburg College's Majestic Theater celebrates beloved cinema classics from the late 20th century with the 2024 Summer Classic Movie series in the historic 1925 auditorium. Enjoy classic movies in the beautifully restored historic theater every Wednesday night through August 21.

"The 2024 Summer Classic Movie schedule represents a team effort by Majestic Theater staff, and includes titles requested over the years by our classic film patrons," says Majestic Theater Marketing Director Jessica Rudy. "We are so excited to share these cinema classics with fellow film fans on Wednesday evenings this summer."

New this year, movie-goers are invited to enjoy mocktails or coffee with fellow film fans every Wednes-

day evening before the show at Waldo's and Company, Gettysburg's non-profit community arts and culture space located nearby in the basement of 17 Lincoln Square. For more information on Waldo's, visit [www.waldosandco.com](http://www.waldosandco.com).

The rise and inevitable downfall of an assortment of mobsters is the subject of Martin Scorsese's 1990 masterpiece *Goodfellas*, on screen July 3. Next, on July 10 Kurt Russell is a trash-talking trucker who gets sucked into a supernatural battle in *Big Trouble in Little China* (1986). On July 17, an inept car salesman's crime falls apart thanks in part to persistent policework by Marge Gunderson in the Coen brothers' *Fargo* (1996).

It's Christmas in July on July 24 with *Die Hard* (1988), the first

installment of the popular action series featuring John McClane (Bruce Willis) as he fights to rid Nakatomi Plaza of terrorists. Wear a Christmas hat to this showing to enjoy a free small popcorn. Cher falls into a complicated love affair with her future brother-in-law on July 31 in *Moonstruck* (1987). Then, find out who killed Mr. Boddy in the comic criminal caper, *Clue* (1985) on August 7.

The series wraps up with two action-packed classics, including *True Grit* (1969) on August 14. John Wayne stars as one-eyed, drunken U.S. Marshal Rooster Cogburn in a rough and tumble tale of revenge. Quentin Tarantino's directorial debut *Reservoir Dogs* (1992) closes the summer on August 21 with a jewelry heist



The rise and inevitable downfall of an assortment of mobsters is the subject of Martin Scorsese's 1990 masterpiece *Goodfellas*, on screen July 3.

gone terribly wrong.

Tickets for all Summer Classics showings are \$8 each and are available at the Majestic Theater Box Office, 25 Carlisle St., Gettysburg, by calling 717-337-8200 or online at [www.gettysburgmajestic.org](http://www.gettysburgmajestic.org).

The Majestic Theater at the Jennifer and David LeVan Performing Arts Center is owned and operated by Gettysburg College as a gathering place for its campus and community to celebrate the arts together.

## Gettysburg Community Theater's Summer Children's Theatre

Chad-Alan Carr

Gettysburg Community Theatre will have its 16th Annual Summer Theatre Camps in July for kindergarten to 9th grade youth.

Students in kindergarten to 2nd grade can enroll in half day summer theatre camps filled with creative dramatics, music and movement, and more which include: *Mother Goose & Friends*, from July 8 to the 12 with Miss Hailey; *Princess & Superhero*, from July 22 to the 26 with Miss Audrey; and/or, *The Royal Ball*, from July 29 to August 2 with Miss Kristy. Each half-day camp will have a free showcase at Noon Fridays.

Students from 2nd to 9th grade can enroll in full day summer theatre camps rehearsing and performing a different short play each week such as: *The Dummiest Play*

Ever, from July 8 to the 12 with Miss Julianna; *What Happened After Once Upon A Time*, from July 15 to the 19th with Miss Julianna; *The Frog Princess*, from July 22 to 26 with Miss Hailey; and/or, *Shakespeare's Got Talent*, from July 29 to August 2 with Miss Hailey. Each full day camp will have a ticketed performance of their play at 4 p.m. Fridays.

Camp students will spend their day with Theatre Arts Games, Beginner/Intermediate Acting Lessons, and Rehearsals for their performance.

Open Auditions for anyone in 1st-12th Grade will be held at 6 in the evening on July 14 or 15 for the chance to be in the cast of GCT's Fall 2024 youth cast musical Disney's *Finding Nemo Jr.*, which will perform weekends in December.

Students should prepare a



one-minute or less song of their choice to sing such as *Happy Birthday*, *Twinkle Twinkle Little Star*, or any Disney or Broadway song they know. A pianist will be provided for those that bring sheet music or they can sing a cappella. Students that are out of town during auditions must e-mail an audition video before July 14 to [Chad@GettysburgCommunityTheatre.org](mailto:Chad@GettysburgCommunityTheatre.org).

GCT hopes to see you at the theatre this year. Subscribe free to the email list to be kept up to date on all educational, volunteer, and performance opportunities available year-round for all ages and abilities. Additionally on the website you can order tickets, register for classes, sign up to volunteer, and make donations. [www.GettysburgCommunityTheatre.org](http://www.GettysburgCommunityTheatre.org)

### Gettysburg Choral Society Summer auditions for the fall semester

The Gettysburg Choral Society is now actively seeking new singers for the Fall season. Auditions are being held by appointment only on Monday, July 22nd (6 to 8) and on Saturday, August 3rd (11 to 1) at Trinity United Church of Christ, 60 East High Street, Gettysburg.

The chorus seeks to utilize the finest choral techniques in an effort to continually improve the quality of performances. As such, persons who read music and have choral experience are encouraged to audition. Vocal accuracy, tone quality, blending ability, diction, and vocal range will be tested during the audition. Good sight reading is a definite plus. All persons auditioning must be at least 18 years of age.

The fall rehearsal cycle begins on Monday, September 9th, with performances scheduled for November 18th, December 6th, 7th, and 14th. Rehearsals begin on Monday, September 9th at Trinity UCC in Gettysburg and will take place on subsequent Monday evenings from 7 to 9.

To schedule an audition, please contact our director, John McKay, at 717-476-1054 (call or text) or email [zoemckay@aol.com](mailto:zoemckay@aol.com). Additional information is available at: [Gettysburgchoralsociety.org](http://Gettysburgchoralsociety.org).

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**Clue**  
 (1985)

**AUGUST 14**  
**True Grit**  
 (1969)

**AUGUST 21**  
**Reservoir Dogs**  
 (1992)

**Tickets: \$8 per person**  
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# MOUNT ARTS

## Swedish art and culture

Emelie Beckman  
MSMU Class of 2026

Since I am home for the summer, and I introduced a little bit of my culture to you last month, I found it only right to expand on culture, specifically the art I grew up with. Culture and art are like symbiosis: one leads to the other. Hence, as someone who travels a lot, when getting introduced to a new culture, I always try to discover as much of the arts as possible. I see art as the eye into a culture, and it's the closest an outsider can ever get to experience it all from a native's eye.

As I mentioned in last month's article, the art world in Sweden is huge, and although the top art shows and societies feels very exclusive, it is still a big part of everyone's life, as well as a connection to our common culture. It can, however, be a bit overwhelming. Sweden is an ancient country, much older than the U.S. This means we had a long time to develop the culture, and with that comes a lot of art. Amongst many historic and newer pieces, the most famous artwork I can think of is Bringing Home the Body of King Karl XII of Sweden (1884) painted by Gustaf Cederström. The painting illustrates the dramatic historical scene of Swedish troops bringing home their deceased king, Karl XII, who was killed in Norway during the Siege of Fredricksten. Their descent towards the bottom of a snowy mountain, observed by onlooking farmers bowing their heads in respect of their fallen ruler, illustrates the widespread somberness in Sweden at the time. Painted in dull muted colors, having but a brilliant blue and yellow flag as a source of brightness in these dark times, it conveys a message of a strong, united country that can persevere onwards even in difficult times. As shown by this artwork, the Swedish monarchy, which is still standing but not ruling, plays a big part into Swedish culture and historical art scene.

Because there is a lot of history in Swedish arts, there is an abundance of art museums in our capital, Stockholm, where I live. During my childhood, I have spent many class trips, and free time for that matter, exploring various museums. Among my top favorites, I recommend both the national museum and the modern museum; both museums show a lot of noteworthy historical and modern art. My favorite museum in Stockholm, however, is the photographic museum, referred to as Fotografiska. The museum unveils a regular flow of new art shows, presenting photographers from all over the world. Along with its up-to-date views on modern art, and its impressive ability to always have something new for you to see, the museum has become a bit of a fashionably cool place to hang out.

Stockholm has gotten worldwide recognition for its unique architecture. But beyond our colorful petite houses, we have something that I think is much more unique, and unfortunately, I feel it is not talked about enough. Our subway system is truly a one of a kind, being commonly refers to as "The World's Longest Art Gallery." Spanning a length of roughly 70 miles, 90 out of the approximate 100 stops are decorated with paintings, sculptures, elaborate wall



Walking through Kungsträdgårdens subway system always provides a beautiful surrounding.

carving, and much more. Each station is designed by a different artist, so each stop is unique and personalized by the artist. Some stations were originally decorated during the original creation of the subway back in the day, but many stations have also been updated during the subway's 74-year existence.

I haven't explored all of the stations yet of course; Stockholm is a big city, but so far, my personal favorite is Kungsträdgården. Located in the absolute center of the city, the station's various platforms are all decorated differently, but specifically the blue line's platform is amazing. Painted in a mossy green with various red tiles scattered over the platform, it has a unique, earthy, and ancient feeling to it. If you walk from the platform towards the entrance, you will see this amazing passage overlooking statues, reminiscing about Ancient Greece, all covered in ivy. There is also a red statue of a beast-like man that you will pass once you step onto the platform. The station is designed by artist Ulrik Samuelson, who drew inspiration from the actual location of the station itself.

Above the subway platform lies a garden called Kungsträdgården (or King's Garden), a suitable name since it's located a brisk walk from the royal castle. The garden has a long history, which served as inspiration of the Samuelson's creation. Samuelson designed the subway stop to be a sort of underground resemblance of what lays above.

We also include art into everyday life here in Sweden. As I mentioned briefly in my previous article, Swedes are very particular about their clothing. This, combined with our culture, has developed a particular style, which together with our neighbors have gotten the name "Scandi Style." This also includes interior design too; obviously, you know of IKEA, but Scandinavian style and fashion is typically hard to exactly pin down. It puts emphasis on characteristics such as comfort, chic, simplicity, color, and patterns. Common features include straight stylish dress pants or linen pants, cardigans,

and colorful patterns; however, it also consists of all blacks or neutrals, puffy sleeves, linen shirts, leather jackets, and various trench coats. As you can tell, it is difficult to generalize, but it is very easy to identify once seen. Some famous Scandi-styled brands, which are very popular in Sweden and are starting to become more famous worldwide, are GANNI, Acne Studios, Flippa K, and my personal favorite, ARKET.

Sweden also has its own cinema, which has contributed to a lot of our common culture. Historical or older examples of Swedish film include The Emigrants and The Seventh Seal, which have gotten a lot of international fame and are usually studied in various film classes worldwide. Additionally, we have Ingmar Bergman, a famous 20th century director and screenwriter from Sweden. He has produced many Swedish classics and earned three Oscars because of it. Now, Swedish film can come in the form of major and small productions, but as a Swede living in America, I feel our films always, no matter the size of the production, has a sort of indie quality to it when compared to American movies and TV shows. However, current Swedish cinema, like with Bergman, is also getting a lot of international fame, especially due to the creation of Netflix. Shows such as Young Royals and En Helt Vanlig Familj (translated to A Nearly Normal Family) have gotten countless international streams on the platform. They have gotten so much publicity that they had to get translated to English.

Next month, I plan on doing a similar cultural study and comparison during my summer travels. Currently with the outlook of going to Greece, I look forward to writing about my experience with Greek culture and art as a Swede living in America, and I can't wait to return to the Mount to both report on my summer and feature more local fine arts events.

To read past articles by Emelie Beckman or Ashley Walczyk, visit the Authors section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).

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### Music, Gettysburg! presents The King's Brass



Tim Zimmerman and the King's Brass will be appearing in concert for the Music, Gettysburg! series on Wednesday, July 10 at 7:30 at the United Lutheran Seminary Chapel at 147 Seminary Ridge, Gettysburg. The concert is free and open to all.

Tim Zimmerman and The King's Brass present hymn classics with a contemporary flair. The King's Brass features three trumpets, three trombones, a tuba, percussion and keyboards. These instruments blend together to create a time of innovative worship that will be enjoyed by all generations.

Secular and sacred music critics alike applaud their concerts as "superb in every way" and "innovative and well played." "Truly, an unforgettable experience!"

The King's Brass, formed over four decades ago in Detroit, is comprised of professional musicians from across the country, who desire to use the instruments they love to lead others in praise and worship. Based out of Fort Wayne, Indiana, the group plays over 150 concerts per year from coast to coast as well as international destinations. This year,

The King's Brass celebrates its 46th Anniversary Season with trip to the Holy Land in March 2025.

The King's Brass' nineteenth recording is titled Festive Brass. This new CD, released on the Summit Records label ([www.summitrecords.com](http://www.summitrecords.com)), welcomes guest organist Diane Bish, J. Marty Cope, Sung-hwan Kim, Rebecca Kleintop Lepore & Samuel Metzger. Selections include: All Hail the Power of Jesus Name ("Coronation"); Festive Trumpet Tune; A Mighty Fortress Is Our God; In Christ Alone; Holy, Holy, Holy; Toccata from Symphonie Concertante; God Bless the USA; Overture to "Candide"; What a Wonderful World; and many more.

Music, Gettysburg! is a premier concert series featuring international, national, regional and local musical artists for the greater south central Pennsylvania region. The United Lutheran Seminary Chapel is at 147 Seminary Ridge in Gettysburg. For more information about this and other concerts in the Music, Gettysburg! schedule, please call 717-339-1334 or visit their website at [www.musicgettysburg.org](http://www.musicgettysburg.org).

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# COMPLEMENTARY CORNER

## The secret garden in life

Jefferson Breland

I am very fortunate to have the opportunity to write for you, dear reader.

I write about topics important to me which I always believe, through my often unconventional point of view, may help you in some small way.

Since my thinking is not always linear, I ask you again to bear with me as I attempt to link seemingly unconnected ideas into some coherence.

According to Chinese medicine, Summer is the season associated with the Heart. Heart is capitalized here because it represents the spirit of the heart, not just the pump that circulates blood.

The capital "H" heart, is the energetic vehicle through which we manifest our purpose in life. Heart is associated with family, love, trust, and our destiny.

June has another association for me also related to the Heart: Grief.

June is the month during which my sister died in 1965 and my father died in 2014. Curiously, they passed on the same date, June 16. Also, interesting to me, June 16 is also the birthdate of my father's mother who left us in October of 1985.

I have heard that our level of grief is related to our level of love for who or what is no more. Grief is not limited to people or pets. It can also be for opportunities, jobs, a beloved business, a favorite home, sentimental objects such as jewelry, our reputation, and our

health. Basically, we can grieve anything meaningful to us.

I have reached the age where more and more friends are writing the obituaries of their parents.

In early May, I gathered with my two brothers of another mother who I have known since 1968. I am generally considered the fourth brother. If you are keeping track of the math, one brother was not there, at least in body. Phil, the middle brother and my best friend died in November of 2011.

We had gathered in Pittsburgh to inter the ashes of their aunt in the family plot. It was here we saw the headstones of an uncle who passed in the 1980s and their grandparents and great grandparents.

We noted to each other that the date of her interment was exactly one year to the day after their mother's memorial and interment. We also remembered that it was one year and a day since the youngest brother and I opened an exhibit to honor the life of my father, Bruce, as an artist, teacher of art, and father at a gallery in Pittsburgh.

One might think I would have realized the weight or profundity of these concurrences, but, it wasn't until I got home and sat quietly that I realized I have been in mourning for the past year. Several days later I developed an "unproductive" cough. The "unproductive" here generally refers to not coughing up sputum.

I believe this is a misnomer. Accord-

ing to Chinese medicine, grief affects the Lungs. This information helped me to understand I was processing the emotion of grief through the coughing. I should not simply blame the cheese on all the Mineo's pizza (my favorite in the whole world) I had eaten in Pittsburgh.

By understanding this "dry" cough was related to grief, I knew it actually had a purpose and therefore was not "unproductive." The cough was helping me on the energetic level. If I had taken cough suppressants, my body would have taken longer to process the emotional energy of grief or shifted the energy of the grief to another part of my body and created other symptoms. This is the "mortal game of whack-a-mole" I referred to in last month's column.

Understanding this background emotion of grief of the past year helped explain to me why my friends' tributes to their just-passed parents had been particularly moving recently. We are the oldest adults in our families now.

Not only that, two days before the interment, I visited with a long-time friend who buried his mother after a long illness in the Spring of 2023. He had been particularly wrecked by his mother's passing as he was an only child and his father had passed almost 50 years ago.

A year ago he had asked me if I knew the purpose of death from my study of Eastern philosophy. At that time I told him, "Perhaps it is not meant for us to understand. Death is for the dead. Life is for the living." I left it that.

Understanding I have been uncon-

sciously mourning for the past year offered a context for my feelings of the past year. I have been moody, putting on a smile when appropriate, and not quite as energetic as I usually am.

After a year of musing on the nature of grief, I had a different answer for my friend. Death is necessary for us to fully understand life. Grief is a necessary emotion for us to fully develop as human beings.

I believe this is a bit different than the old chestnuts of "Without death, there is no life" or more obvious, "Without life, there is no death."

This goes beyond the belief that death helps us appreciate life. While that may be true, this is an example of Yin-Yang principle in action.

If we look at the interplay between seeming opposites, life and death, we can see that they actually help nourish each other. In the case of food, animals and plants die so that we may live.

In the example of my father, during the year's preparation for the exhibit, I went through his old files, looked at hundreds and hundreds of photographs of his work and interactions with students, hundreds of documents he kept about his work, and project proposals, and correspondence with peers and students.

I was able to see him through the lens of his art work, of his role as a teacher, and as a member of the global art community. He became alive to me in the context of his life away from our home and his role as a father. I gained an even greater respect for him.

Grief affords us the opportunity to take stock of what really matters. It is an opportunity to discover the gifts of

another's life in our life. I discovered my father and I were even more alike than I knew. Our shared gifts and talents showed up differently in me than they did in him.

I was talking with a new acquaintance today. She expressed regret that she had not paid more attention to her father's gift as a gardener. She said he had a green thumb and neighbors were always coming by asking for the amazing vegetables, especially, tomatoes, he grew. She said she wished she had paid more attention to how he did what he did.

Based on what she had said to me earlier in our conversation about how she was raising her children, I offered this; she had paid attention to the teachings of her father. They simply manifested differently in her life. I offered that how her father was in the garden was how he showed up in every aspect of his life. I offered that her garden was her family.

She was planting the seeds of being a good human being. She was making sure they were getting the sun they needed, the nutrition they needed, and weeding out behaviors and ideas that did not help them on their path to becoming the best they can be.

Her regret was actually grief. She longed for the wisdom of her father as a gardener not realizing she was also in his garden, his garden of life.

May you also discover the hidden gifts in your life's Garden.

*Jefferson Breland is a board-certified acupuncturist licensed in Pennsylvania and Maryland with offices in Gettysburg. He can be reached at 410-336-5876.*

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# HEALTH AND FITNESS

## Health questions many people have!



**Linda Stultz**  
Certified Fitness Trainer

I have had many questions over the years about exercise, nutrition and health related matters so in this article I will be sharing a few of them.

You should always get advice and training from someone who has been trained and educated in weight lifting before you start. It is definitely important to have training in the proper techniques before you start a weightlifting program.

One question that some people are confused about is how much weight they should lift when they start weightlifting. I usually ask them, what they are trying to achieve? Do they want to lose weight and build strength or do they want to build muscle like a bodybuilder? Most people want to keep the muscle they have and build more strength to be healthy. This type of weightlifting is achieved by using light to moderate weight and doing more repetitions. A person who wants to body build large muscles or go into competition would use heavier weights with less repetitions.

Another question many people have is, which is better running or walking. Again, my question to them is what are they trying to achieve? Walking is the best way to start, especially if you have been sedentary and not doing much. For most people, walking gets their

heart rate up and burns calories. Walking also gets their muscles and joints moving. Starting at a moderate to brisk pace is usually fine for most people but everyone should check with their doctor, especially if you have any health issues before you start any type of exercise program. After you have been walking for a few weeks or months, whatever is right for you, you could start jogging or running if that is what your goal was. Many people like to run for exercise and to clear their head from the stress of the day. Others run to train for a race. Whichever you choose, walking or running, they are both great to improve blood pressure, cholesterol, weight, depression and many other health issues. It is also a great way to spend time with family and friends.

Fresh or frozen, which is better when it comes to fruits and vegetables. I always prefer fresh when it is in season. Fresh tastes better and we always look forward to what is coming in at the time. Strawberries and blueberries fresh from the field are fun to have. Apple picking in the fall can be a great way to get exercise and great tasting fruit. Veggies from your garden or the community farmers market are always good. Frozen fruits and vegetables are usually picked at the peak of freshness and contain the same nutrients as fresh ones. The important thing is not fresh or frozen. The important thing is to eat your fruits and veggies for good health.

I often get asked the question of how much water should you drink each day. We have always heard eight glasses of water a day. That's a good amount of water to try to get each day but it can also depend on your exercise and activity level. Everyone is different and our bod-

ies respond differently. If you work outside in the hot weather and lose moisture by sweating a lot, you will need to adjust your water intake accordingly. The important thing to remember is by the time you feel thirsty you are already getting dehydrated. Don't wait

till you feel you need something to drink, just take drinks several times and hopefully you will never feel dehydrated.

I hope these have answered a few of your questions. If you have more questions I would like to hear from you. You can contact me at 717-334-6009 with any questions. Remember, Keep Moving.

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# ASTRONOMY

## The night sky of July

Professor Wayne Wooten

For July 2024, the waning crescent moon passes north of Mars in the morning sky on July 1st, then above Jupiter on July 3rd. New moon is July 5th, the same day we are at aphelion, farthest from the Sun at 94.5 million miles. As your thermometer reminds us, our almost circular orbit plays a much lesser role in our seasons than does our axial tilt. The slender waxing crescent passes just above Mercury in twilight on July 7th, a fine photo op and great chance to catch the innermost planet with the naked eyes. The first quarter moon is on July 13th. The full moon, the Thunder Moon, is on July 21st. The waning gibbous moon rises just below Saturn about 10 p.m. on July 24th. The last quarter moon is on July 27th. The waning crescent passes Mars in the dawn on July 30th, and much brighter Jupiter on July 31st.

Mercury is visible low in the western twilight for the first two weeks of July, but never gets very high for us. But in the southern hemisphere, this will be their best chance to observe it in 2024. Venus is still too close to the Sun to spot yet. Mars is in the morning sky in Taurus, south of the famed Pleiades cluster. Jupiter is now back in the dawn, north of the Hyades cluster in Taurus. This is a great photo op

Saturn rises about 10 p.m. in Capricornus, it looks a lot different than last year. The rings are thinning fast, and will be edge on and disappear for earth-based observers next March, so enjoy them this Fall as they get thinner and more edge on daily. Like earth, Saturn has seasons, and even more tilt (27 degrees versus our 23.5 degrees). At its solstices, the rings are bright and widely open for us, but in the next year,



**The Great Rift, or Dark Rift, is a long swath of gaseous clouds darkening a stretch of the Milky Way. And yes, it blocks the light from the stars behind it. This dark cloudy strip – where stars are forming – is visible in a dark sky.**

Saturn's almost edge on rings drop its apparent brightness in the sky by half as it approaches its equinox. The icy rings reflect much more light than the darker disk of the planet.

High overhead is the Big Dipper, and good scouts know to use the pointers at the end of the bowl to find Polaris, the pole star, staying 30 degrees high in our night sky all year long. By midnight, the earth's rotation will carry the dipper low in the NW sky, yet Polaris will still be in the same place. This was critical to early navigators like Columbus, for if they kept Polaris at the same altitude in their northern sky, they knew they were sailing due west, leading him to the new world.

If you drop south from the bowl of the Big Dipper, Leo the Lion is in the SW. Note the Egyptian Sphinx is based on the shape of this Lion in the sky.

Taking the arc in the Dipper's handle, we "arc" SE to bright orange Arcturus, the brightest star of Spring. Cooler than our yellow Sun, and much poorer in heavy elements, some believe its strange motion reveals it to be an invading star from another smaller gal-

axy. This is the Sagittarius Dwarf Galaxy, now colliding with the Milky Way in Sagittarius in the summer sky. It lies on the far edge of our own barred spiral, and may account for the formation of our bar. Moving almost perpendicular to the plane of our Milky Way, Arcturus was the first star in the sky where its proper motion across the historic sky was noted, by Edmund Halley.

Arcturus is currently the brightest star overhead, but that can change any day now. To the NE of Arcturus is the Northern Crown, Corona Borealis. Its brightest jewel is Gemma (or Alphecca, here), in the center of the crown, but below the eastern edge of the curve near epsilon Corona Borealis, the dwarf nova T Corona Borealis is due to flare 100X brighter any time. Here is the finder chart to see if it has flared yet. At its maximum light, it should outshine Gemma for at least a few days, based on previous explosions seen in 1217, 1787, and 1866. Stay tuned!

Spike south to Spica, the hot blue star in Virgo, then curve to Corvus the

Crow, a four sided grouping. North of Corvus, in the arms of Virgo, is where our large scopes will show members of the Virgo Supercluster, a swarm of over a thousand galaxies about 50 million light years distant.

To the east, Hercules is well up, with the nice globular cluster M-13 marked on your sky map and visible in binocs. The brightest star of the northern hemisphere, Vega (from Carl Sagan's novel and movie, "Contact"), rises in the NE as twilight deepens. Twice as hot as our Sun, it appears blue-white, like most bright stars.

Northeast of Lyra is Cygnus, the Swan, flying down the Milky Way. Its bright star Deneb, at the top of the "northern cross" is one of the luminaries of the Galaxy, about 50,000 times more luminous than our Sun and around 3,000 light years distant. of the Galaxy, and a little above (north) of Vega.

South of Deneb, on a dark clear night, note the "Great Rift", a dark nebula in front of our solar system as we revolve around the core of the Milky Way in the Galactic Year of 250 million of our own years. The star at the south end of the Northern Cross is one of my favorites, Albireo, the "gator star", a notable orange and blue double at 20X.

Altair is the third bright star of the summer triangle. It lies in Aquila the Eagle, and is much closer than Deneb; it lies within about 13 light years of our Sun.

As we head south, Antares is well up at sunset in Scorpius. It appears reddish (its Greek name means rival of Ares or Mars to the Latins) because it is half as hot as our yellow Sun; it is bright because it is a bloated red supergiant, big enough to swallow up our solar system all the way

out to Saturn's orbit! Scorpius is the brightest constellation in the sky, with 13 stars brighter than the pole star Polaris! Note the fine naked eye clusters M-6 and M-7, just to the left of the Scorpion's tail.

Just a little east of the Scorpion's tail is the teapot shape of Sagittarius, which lies toward the center of the Milky Way. From a dark sky site, you can pick out the fine stellar nursery, M-8, the Lagoon Nebula, like a cloud of steam coming out of the teapot's spout. This view of our home galaxy stretching overhead is for about midnight on July evenings, looking from the South to overhead. My favorite way of learning the many deep sky objects (open and globular clusters, bright nebulae like the Lagoon, and the many dark nebulae that make up the "Dark Constellations" of the Inca) is to use low power binoculars (I prefer 8x40s because they are light and easier to hold steady with my Parkinson's, but younger folks with a better grip on life will find 10x50's will show fainter objects and at high power) and lean back in a lawn chair (also an ideal way to observe meteor showers like August's Perseids with just your naked eyes) and slowly sweep up and down the Galaxy, marking off the deep sky objects on your SkyMap as you spot them.

Note the back of the SkyMap has a fine selection of the best deep sky objects to spot with the naked eyes, binocs, and small scopes to help you find your way across the Galaxy this summer. Of course, you will need dark skies to see this kind of beauty, but many have plans for trips to parks and out west this summer, so be sure to plan for at least a few evenings under dark skies to appreciate our galaxy.

## Farmers' Almanac

*"Those who deny freedom to others  
deserve it not for themselves"*  
—Abraham Lincoln  
(1809-1865)

**Mid-Atlantic Weather Watch:** Dry, warm, and humid (1, 2, 3, 4, 5); very hot and humid at first with late-day scattered thunderstorms, then cooler (6, 7, 8, 9, 10); seasonably warm and humid with evening thunderstorms at first, then a pleasant morning or two and dry (11, 12, 13, 14, 15); 16-20: seasonably warm with late day thunderstorm (16, 17, 18, 19, 20); turning very hot and humid with scattered afternoon thunderstorm (21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26); warm and humid with isolated PM afternoon & evening thunderstorm, then turning cooler (27, 28, 29, 30, 31).

**Severe Weather Watch:** The Town and Country Almanac sees severe thunderstorm (11, 12, 13); heavy rain (20, 21, 22, 23, 24), and severe thunderstorm (26, 27, 28).

**Full Moon:** July's Full Moon will occur on Sunday, July 21st. Many Native American tribes referred to it as Thunder Moon because of the numerous severe thunderstorms during the month (just look at this month's forecast above!) while other tribes called it Buck Moon because of rapid growth of antlers on young bucks during the month. Many other tribes called it

either Ripe Corn Moon, because of the appearance of young corn on the stalks that were planted in the Spring, or Hay Moon since hay tended to ripen as well.

**Special Notes:** Watch out! Those Dog Days of Summer will be upon us starting Wednesday, July 3rd. Get ready for some the hot and humid weather to hit and last until mid-August.

**Holidays:** The Fourth of July is celebrated on Thursday in 2024. On this day, in 1776, the Continental Congress passed a resolution saying, "These United Colonies are, and of right, ought to be, free and independent states". And always remember, if planning any extended outdoor activities, use the appropriate level of sunscreen (SPF 15 or higher). Apply it frequently, especially if swimming or perspiring. The Islamic New Year falls on Tuesday, July 18th. If a barbeque is planned, double-check the grill. Nobody wants any surprises, so it is wise to make sure that it is functioning properly and that you remember to fill up the propane tank (or picked up plenty of charcoal and charcoal lighter fluid!).

**The Garden:** Continue to keep the garden adequately watered (that is, if July's forecasted wet weather is not enough!). Expect plants to do well with

all of the extra rain in July but as the summer continues, be sure to make up for what Mother Nature neglects to provide. Be sure that all tall annuals and perennials are securely staked so that they will remain upright during the afternoon thunderstorms that are so common for this time of year. Be sure that all tall annuals and perennials are securely staked so that they will remain upright during the afternoon thunderstorms that are so common for this time of year. During the dry summer months, remember to mow the lawn when it is high and mow less often. Taller grass withstands drought better because its blades shade the soil.

**The Farm:** Best for planting root crops (1, 2, 28, 29); weeding and stirring the soil (3, 4, 7, 8, 9); planting above-ground crops (15, 16); harvesting all crops (17, 18); the best days for setting hens and incubators (14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28); the slaughtering and butchering of meat (5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12); transplanting (5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12); the weaning of all small animals and livestock (17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25); harvesting and storing grains (1, 2, 3, 4, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31).

**J. Gruber's Thought For Today's Living**

*"Do not regard liberty and freedom so lightly that you forget its value and take it for granted."*



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# COMPUTER Q&A

## Windows 10 support ends in 2025

Aysë Stenabaugh  
Jesters Computers

It's hard to believe that Windows 10 will be 10 years old next July. Microsoft has announced that 22H2 will be the final version of Windows 10. Microsoft will continue to provide critical security updates monthly to devices that have the latest (22H2) version until the scheduled end-of-life date of October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Once this date is reached critical updates will cease leaving devices connected to the internet vulnerable to potential threats.

### What can you do when Windows 10 support ends?

Once support for Windows 10 ends, users can choose to upgrade to a supported OS such as Windows 11, and switch platforms to Mac OS, Linux, or Chrome OS. Alternatively, users can opt into enrolling their up-to-date Windows 10 devices into the extended service update program which includes security and critical updates only. In the past, the extended service update program also known as ESU was a paid program that was geared towards organizations. With the Windows 10 ESU program individuals can take advantage of the extended support updates by paying an annual fee. There is no word from Microsoft on what they will charge but historically they have offered ESU plans at a tiered rate starting at \$50 for the first year and reaching \$200 for the third and final support year. With these plans reaching such high prices by the second and third years for most users it probably makes more sense to invest in upgrading or replacing devices to support Windows 11 before the software's end of life is reached in October 2025.

### Is your PC compatible with Windows 11?

Not all devices that are compatible with Windows 10 will support Windows 11's hardware and security requirements. If your device is compatible with Windows 11, you will be asked to upgrade your computer to the new OS during Windows updates. If you are not being prompted to upgrade or if you would like to find out if your device is supported and what is needed to meet system requirements for Windows 11 you can download Microsoft's PC Health Check application by visiting <https://aka.ms/GetPCHHealthCheckApp> from a web browser on a Windows device. Most computers over 3-4 years old will likely not support the operating system without hardware upgrades as well as software updates. To have your computer checked by a professional for Windows 11 compatibility visit Jester's Computers located in Fairfield for a free estimate.

### How long will Windows 11 be supported?

Windows 11 was released in October of 2021 and is currently on its third version 23H2. The typical life cycle of most software is 10 years of mainstream support. Looking back at prior Windows operating systems, Windows XP had 3 service packs and was in support for a total of 12 years, Windows 7 was supported for 10 years and now Windows 10 will follow suit. While there is no definitive date of when Windows 11 support will end, if users continue to keep their devices up to date they can expect that support will continue through 2031.

### Should I be concerned about Windows 11?

Many end-users have expressed concerns about upgrading to Windows 11 especially surrounding security and privacy. The reason why Windows 11 is not supported on older hardware is because older hardware

does not support the strict security requirements deemed necessary by Microsoft to run Windows 11 on devices. It is true that the preferred settings of Windows 11 are configured to collect what users might consider to be an uncomfortable amount of unnecessary data. This paired with what many consider to be invasive Microsoft ads and AI integrated features has many hesitant to upgrade or use the latest Microsoft Windows operating system. The good news is that many of the settings that are configured during setup to share user data and collect optional diagnostic data can be disabled if you know how to find them and verify that those settings are no longer functioning.

*If you find yourself in need of quality computer repair services, visit Jester's Computer Services, located at 5135 Fairfield Road in Fairfield, or contact us by phone at 717-642-661, or visit our website at [www.jesterscomputers.com](http://www.jesterscomputers.com).*



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# 102nd Annual SOUTH MOUNTAIN FAIR

**July 23 - 27 - \$8 Per Person**

**Infants in a rear facing car seat are FREE!**

*All entertainment and amusement rides included in admission price!*

Rt. 234, Arendtsville ■ 717-677-9663 ■ [www.southmountainfair.com](http://www.southmountainfair.com)

**Anyone using a free admission pass can purchase a carnival ride wristband at the gate for a small fee.**



**Fair Opens:**  
 T, W, Th, F - 4 p.m.  
 Saturday 1 p.m.  
**Closes each day  
 at 10 p.m.**

**Sunday, July 21**

1 p.m. - South Mountain Fair Rabbit and Cavy Show, Show Arena  
 2 p.m. - 4 - Registration of Open Exhibits

**Monday, July 22**

4 - 7 p.m. - Registration of Open Exhibits

**Tuesday, July 23**

4 p.m. - Fair Opens, Exhibit Buildings Open  
 5 p.m. - 10 p.m. - Carnival Rides Open (Approximate times)  
 7 p.m. - Adams Co. Jr. Livestock Market Swine Judging, Show Arena  
 7 p.m. - Mullet Contest - Auditorium - Free  
 7:30 p.m. - Food Auction - Auditorium to benefit an Adams Co. charity

**Wednesday, July 24**

3 p.m. - Open Goat Judging, Show Arena  
 4 p.m. - Open Sheep Judging, Show Arena  
 4 p.m. - Fair Opens, Exhibit Buildings Open  
 5 - 10 p.m. - Carnival Rides Open (Approximate times)  
 6 p.m. - Adams Co. Jr. Livestock Market Goat Judging, Show Arena  
 6 p.m. - Draft & Miniature Horse Pulling Contest, Rear Arena  
 7 p.m. - Adams Co. Jr. Livestock Market Sheep Judging, Show Arena

**Thursday, July 25**

3 p.m. - Open Beef Judging, Show Arena  
 4 p.m. - Fair Opens, Exhibit Buildings Open  
 4 - 10 p.m. - Laser Tag  
 5 - 10 p.m. - Carnival Rides Open (approximate times)

4 p.m. - Junior Livestock Dairy Beef Feeder Calf Judging, Show Arena

4:30 p.m. - Junior Livestock Dairy Beef Finished Steer Judging, Show Arena

5 p.m. - Junior Livestock Steer Judging

6:30 p.m. - Chainsaw Carving Show

7 p.m. - Austin Rife - Auditorium - Free

8 p.m. - Chainsaw Carving Show

9:30 p.m. - Fireworks Display - Visible from entire fairgrounds

**Friday, July 26**

4 p.m. - Fair Opens, Exhibit Buildings Open

4 - 10 p.m. - Laser Tag

5 - 10 p.m. - Carnival Rides Open (Approximate times)

5 p.m. - Junior Livestock Dairy Judging, Show Arena

6 p.m. - Dairy Showmanship Judging, Show Arena

6:30 p.m. - Chainsaw Carving Show

6:30 p.m. - Open Dairy Cattle Judging (All breeds), Show Arena

7 p.m. - The Kenton Sitch Band - Auditorium - Free

8 p.m. - Chainsaw Carving Show

**Saturday, July 27**

1 p.m. - Fair Opens, Exhibit Buildings Open

2 - 10 p.m. - Carnival Rides Open (with afternoon break for dinner)

3 p.m. - 4 - Faith Noel - Auditorium - Free

4 p.m. - Adams Co. Jr. Livestock Sale - Show Arena (Steer/Dairy/Beef/Goat/Sheep/Rabbits/Swine)

4:30 p.m. - Parade Of Antique Farm Equipment

6 p.m. - Pedal Tractor Pull For The Kid

6 - 7 p.m. - Elly Cook - Auditorium - Free

7:30 - 9 p.m. - Gravy - Auditorium - Free

10 p.m. - Exhibit Buildings Close (Only Livestock May Be Removed)



**PROUD  
 OF OUR  
 FUTURE!**



Route 234, Adams County,  
 1 Mile West of Arendtsville,  
 8 Miles West of Gettysburg

**Sunday, July 28**

2 - 4 p.m. - Fairgrounds open to  
 remove all remaining  
 exhibits

# COMMUNITY NOTES

## Gettysburg honors 161st battle anniversary

Mary Grace Kauffman  
Media Relations Manager  
Destination Gettysburg



The boom of cannons and dash of armies will return this summer as visitors flock to south central Pennsylvania to walk in the footsteps of history during the 161st anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg.

From July 1 to 3, 1863, the bloodiest battle of the Civil War resulted in more than 50,000 casualties. The conflict proved to be a major turning point for the Union Army. Since then, the story of Gettysburg has continued to draw millions of visitors to Adams County each year.

Gettysburg will mark the 161st anniversary with a 10-day commemoration from June 28 through July 7, featuring re-enactments, special events, live performances, guided tours, and an Independence Day celebration with fireworks.

A two-day battle re-enactment produced by the Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association at the historic Daniel Lady Farm will cap off the commemoration July 6 and 7. The event is expected to draw thousands of spectators and hundreds of re-enactors. Visitors can look forward to epic battle re-creations, living history demonstrations, interactive activities for children that include a “little soldiers battle,” and more as history comes to life before their eyes.

A downtown re-enactment will take place at the Shriver House Museum July 6, depicting what the Battle of Gettysburg looked like for one family whose home was caught in the crossfire. This event provides a unique perspective on the war and how the civilians of Gettysburg were impacted when nearly 170,000 soldiers came crashing through their small town.

Gettysburg National Military Park will mark the occasion with daily ranger guided programs and events July 1 through 3. Free hikes, walks, and family programs will explore and reflect on this pivotal moment in history. The public is invited to join the National Park Service staff throughout the three-day period on the battlefield, at Gettysburg National Cemetery, and at the Museum and Visitor Center.

As part of the 161st anniversary, the Gettysburg Foundation and Gettysburg

National Military Park will host Sacred Trust Talks & Book Signings July 1 to 3 and July 6 to 7 at the Museum and Visitor Center. Through thought-provoking discussions, authors will bring the stories and lessons of the battle to the audiences of today.

The 10-day commemoration will kick off with performances by author and playwright Chuck Johnson as he portrays Abraham Lincoln in his 30-minute play, “The Night Before Gettysburg.” The one-man show gives audiences a glimpse into what might have been the 16th president’s state of mind as he put the finishing touches on the Gettysburg Address. Free performances will take place June 28 through 30 at the Gettysburg Lincoln Railroad Station starting at 7 p.m.

Throughout the anniversary and through Labor Day, the “100 Nights of Taps” tribute to fallen soldiers will occur

at Gettysburg National Cemetery each night at 7 p.m. This poignant tradition reminds visitors of the great sacrifice made more than 16 decades ago. Prior to

each musical performance, licensed battlefield guides will offer free interpretive programs beginning at 5:30 p.m.

For a full list of 161st anniversary events, visit [DestinationGettysburg.com/161](http://DestinationGettysburg.com/161).

### The origin of “taps”

We have all heard the haunting melody of “Taps.” It’s the song that gives us that lump in our throats and usually tears in our eyes. But do you know the story behind the song?

If not, I think you will be pleased to find out about its humble beginnings.

Reportedly, it all began in 1862 during the Civil War, when Union Army Captain Robert Ellicombe was with his men near Harrison’s Landing, Virginia. The Confederate Army was on the other side of the narrow strip of land.

During the night, Captain Ellicombe heard the moans of a soldier who was severely wounded on the field. Not knowing if it was a Union or Confederate soldier, the Captain decided to risk his life and bring the stricken man back for medical attention.

Crawling on his stomach through the gunfire, the Captain reached the stricken soldier and began pulling him toward the encampment. When the Captain finally reached his own lines, he discovered it was actually a Confederate soldier, but the soldier

was dead. The Captain lit a lantern and suddenly caught his breath and went numb with shock. In the dim light he saw the face of the soldier.

It was his own son!  
The boy had been studying music in the South when the war broke out. Without telling his father, the boy enlisted in the Confederate Army.

The following morning, heartbroken, the father asked permission to give his son a full military burial despite his enemy status.





His request was only partially granted. The Captain had asked if he could have a group of Army band members play a funeral dirge for his son at the funeral. The request was denied since the soldier was a Confederate. But, out of respect for the father, they did say they could give him one musician.

The Captain chose a bugler. He asked the bugler to play a series of musical notes he had found on a piece of paper in the pocket of the dead youth’s uniform. This wish was granted. The haunting melody, which we now know as “Taps” used at military funerals, was born.

# 161<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg

at The Historic Daniel Lady Farm

## July 6 & 7

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For Tickets & Event Information Visit...  
[www.DanielLadyFarm.com](http://www.DanielLadyFarm.com)  
 1008 Hanover Road • Gettysburg • 717-398-2026

*GATES OPEN 8:30AM DAILY • Event Schedule Subject to Change • Ticket Prices Higher At Gate*

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**2ND ANNUAL  
GETTYSBURG BREWFEST & TRAIL 5K**

~ AUGUST 17 ~



The 2nd Annual Gettysburg Brewfest & Trail 5K is a 3.1-mile trail run and walk followed by a beer and cider sampling festival in the afternoon. The Brewfest will have 35+ beer and cider samplings, musical entertainment, food vendors and barn and house tours at the Historic Daniel Lady Farm!

**For more information go to:**  
[www.gettysburgbrewfestandtrail5k.com](http://www.gettysburgbrewfestandtrail5k.com)



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